

**EASTER
SPECIAL**

28th April, 1984

33p

Shoot!

IN COLOUR
Highbury
Showdown
Old Firm
Fury

**BRYAN
ROBSON'S**

ENGLAND REPORT

**TREVOR FRANCIS
BOMBSHELL**

**ALAN KENNEDY'S
BREAKTHROUGH**

**HUDSON WARNING
TO CHELSEA**

**Notts County
group**



The make-or-Easter Eggs

Rough Justice

KEITH Burkinshaw's departure from Spurs is one of the saddest managerial exits on record.

Why? Because Keith is first and foremost one of the game's most honest, dedicated and friendly characters.

Nothing is too much trouble for him. He has always put his team first, and any personal matters he has to attend to in life come second.

Keith's brief on joining Spurs as manager in July, 1976, was to see whether he could raise standards and recapture some of the glory Bill Nicholson had enjoyed when he ran the team in the real years.

SHOOT view!

Keith did not let the club down. They gained promotion to the First Division in 1978, and won the F.A. Cup in 1981.

One of the most elusive of all trophies became theirs again in 1982, and such was the strength of the team Keith had built that they reached the Milk Cup Final also that year, losing to Liverpool.

The Championship has eluded Spurs since 1961, even though Keith felt that the purchase of Alan Brazil, Gary Stevens and Danny Thomas would give the club the strength to mount a serious challenge this season.

Unfortunately, Keith could not mobilise his campaign, his efforts fraught chiefly by injury to a great number of key players.

A man of the calibre of Keith Burkinshaw deserves more than the rough justice he has received at White Hart Lane.

LIVERPOOL, whose very consistency and sustained level of excellence threatens to make them unpopular, are poised to win their 15th League Championship.

With the Milk Cup already claimed for a record fourth time, Joe Fagan's men have recovered from a slight post-Christmas stumble when injuries upset their rhythm.

And for all the euphoria surrounding Manchester United's European exploits, their inability to match Liverpool's clinical efficiency may well leave Ron Atkinson's expensive squad second best.

Easter, traditionally a make-or-break stage of the season, will again see some clubs into the home straight and others stumble on a cluttered final bend.

Liverpool, home to a revitalised West Bromwich Albion on Saturday, go to Leicester on Tuesday knowing that six points will set them up for a strong run-in.

United are at home to flagging Coventry and away to struggling Notts County — two sides who need points just as badly as United, but for very different reasons.

With Bruce Grobbelaar in superb form, Graeme Souness a majestic organiser, Kenny Dalglish fully recovered from his facial injury and Ian Rush relentless in his pursuit of goals, Liverpool have four aces at the most crucial stage of the game.

United do not! Frank Stapleton and Norman Whiteside have scored fewer goals between them than Rush alone, and Atkinson is still unsure whether to use Remi Moses and free Bryan Robson to go forward or play Arthur Graham wide to provide a greater service for his twin spearhead.

But Easter is also a hurdle that many favourites have failed to clear!



While Manchester United and Liverpool battle for the Championship, Notts County (white shirts left) travel to Luton in search of three vital points to help them avoid relegation.



TELL TALE

ALARGE percentage of Championship, promotion and relegation issues will finish with the tables looking just as they do before kick-off time on Easter Saturday!

That's the outcome of our research over the years and our direct comparison between the League placings at Easter last season and after the final games had been played.

But that's not to say that any single issue is already resolved. Far from it. Clubs who look safe can crash and clubs that look doomed manage astonishing recovery acts — something that has happened

break weekend citement



Ipswich — It looks bleak

WITH Wolves and Notts County requiring a miracle to avoid relegation, the dreaded third spot looks likely to claim one of four clubs — Ipswich, Stoke, Sunderland or Coventry.

Wolves begin with a home game against Ipswich, Stoke go to Norwich, County are away to Luton and Sunderland are at home to in-form Everton, who play hosts to Wolves on Monday. Coventry must face Manchester United at Old Trafford.

After the weekend, Ipswich have their East Anglian derby with Norwich at Portman Road, County play hosts to United and Sunderland travel to play WBA.

It's a melting-pot of a situation, with Ipswich looking to have the most tricky double of the lot. But it only needs one of the clubs to bend to the pressure and the rest will slip off the hook.

The race to replace the relegated trio is hotting up as Chelsea, Sheffield Wednesday and Newcastle continue to edge away from Manchester City, Carlisle and Grimsby.

Chelsea will expect three points from the visit of Shrewsbury on Saturday while Wednesday have a decisive clash at home to Grimsby. City and Newcastle, who both play on Friday night, go to Oldham and Blackburn respectively.

On Monday, Newcastle will be packed for the visit of Carlisle while up the road, Jack Charlton will have mixed feelings as his Boro take on Wednesday, the club 'Big Jack' so nearly took up himself. City are at home to



Chelsea's top scorer Kerry Dixon.

Huddersfield and 24 hours later Chelsea travel to Portsmouth.

It's significant that where the strikers are on song the challenge is strongest.

At Chelsea, David Speedie and Kerry Dixon look sharper than for some weeks; Gary Bannister and Imre Varadi continue to find the net for Wednesday and Kevin Keegan, Peter Beardsley and Chris Waddle are virtually unstoppable for Newcastle.

But Derek Parlane and Jim Tolmie have gone through a nightmare spell and City have stuttered as a result.

Odds-on Dons

FORFAR Athletic's amazing March 31 promotion to Division One is just the prelude to a thrilling finale to the Scottish League programme.

The Premier Division is a three-horse race, games in hand favouring both Aberdeen and Dundee United over Celtic. All three are capable of the occasional slip, and the Championship may not be resolved until very late in the day.

Motherwell look doomed to relegation and St. Johnstone must be favourites to go down with them, although Dundee have slipped into the danger-zone.

Division One is really tight — Dumbarton, Morton, Partick Thistle and Clydebank are all battling for the two promotion places.

And the duo for the drop into Division Two is equally unpredictable, Alloa worst off, followed by Raith Rovers and Hamilton.

TABLES

over countless seasons.

Luton, Birmingham and Norwich were all in the relegation caption last Easter, but none of them went down! And Fulham were seven points clear of Leicester yet missed promotion.

Derby, in the same situation this season, were second from bottom and in real trouble. Bolton, on the other hand, weren't even in the bottom four. Yet Wanderers went down and Derby survived.

Easter will again produce delight for some clubs and disaster for others. What makes it all so exciting is that nobody can predict where the turnabouts will occur.

EASTER '83		MAY '83	
DIV. 1	Pts	DIV. 1	Pts
Liverpool	71	Liverpool	82
Watford	58	Watford	71
Man. Utd.	55	Man. Utd.	70
A. Villa	52	Spurs	69
Bottom		Bottom	
Luton	34	Coventry	48
Birmingham	33	Man. City	47
Norwich	23	Swansea	41
Brighton	31	Brighton	40
DIV. 2		DIV. 2	
QPR	68	QPR	85
Wolves	63	Wolves	75
Fulham	58	Leicester	70
Leicester	51	Fulham	69
Bottom		Bottom	
C. Palace	35	Grimsby	47
Rotherham	35	Rotherham	45
Derby	33	Burnley	44
Burnley	32	Bolton	44

EASTER '83		MAY '83	
DIV. 3	Pts	DIV. 3	Pts
Portsmouth	70	Portsmouth	91
Newport	68	Cardiff	86
Cardiff	68	Huddersfield	82
Huddersfield	62	Newport	78
Bottom		Bottom	
Chesterfield	36	Reading	53
Doncaster	34	Wrexham	51
Preston	32	Doncaster	38
Millwall	28	Chesterfield	37
DIV. 4		DIV. 4	
Hull	72	Wimbledon	98
Wimbledon	71	Hull	90
Port Vale	68	Port Vale	88
Bury	67	Scunthorpe	83
Bottom		Bottom	
Rochdale	39	Blackpool	49
Hartlepool	38	Hartlepool	48
Crewe	35	Crewe	41
Hereford	34	Hereford	41

CHELSEA won't set the First Division alight next season if they get there — but they'll be good enough to stay!

Yet they could need strengthening in one crucial department — midfield. A lack of creative ability there will need to be solved.

That's the forecast from ex-Chelsea star Alan Hudson, now leading Stoke City's relegation fight after a fruitless seven months of the season in the reserves at Stamford Bridge.

Hudson's assessment of his former club's chances in the First Division points the way to a brighter future

for the Londoners. But he has this warning for his former club: "Talk of a great team is a little far fetched."

Hudson has no axe to grind. He admits his continuing love for the club where he began his professional career and says: "Nothing would give me greater pleasure than to see Chelsea taking the First Division by storm."

"But you have to be realistic and I can't see them challenging for the Championship for a while yet. They don't create enough clear chances from midfield."

"Their scoring opportunities come mainly from slinging the ball into the box but they will need more than that if they are planning a long term future in Division One."

"That style is alright for a season. But you need more quality in the long run. I believe Colin Pates is the likeliest player at the Bridge to go on and earn full international honours. He is the one real quality player they have got."

"Apart from him, Chelsea lack young talent of that standard. But in Division One, some teams have four or five players like that. Therein lies the difference — it is a different world in the First."

Hudson insists Chelsea need a player to hold the ball in midfield. "They don't have anyone to slow the game down and enable them to soak up pressure. Their system makes them by-pass midfield, but

'Chelsea won't do a Watford'

WARNS ALAN HUDSON

that will have to change if they win promotion.

"They have done most of their buying to get into this position so I don't think they will have that much money available for new men. Enthusiasm has got them where they are, allied to John Hollins' ability to instil discipline and belief. The side is more professional now than has been the case for a long time."

"Maybe this side is not as

naturally talented as the one they had in the past few years. But it has been more successful because it has the discipline and organisation which the other one lacked."

Lack of experience is another factor Chelsea must work hard to make up for says Hudson. "But at least in that respect they will be like a lot of other new teams in Division One."

"I don't believe they have the ability to do what Watford did in their first season up when they finished runners-up. But equally, I'm sure they are better than some of the teams and they will stay there at the very least."

Classy young defender Colin Pates clears for Chelsea against Sheffield Wednesday.



NOBBY

HE SHOULD HAVE GONE OFF AFTER HE CRASHED INTO THE CORNER FLAG



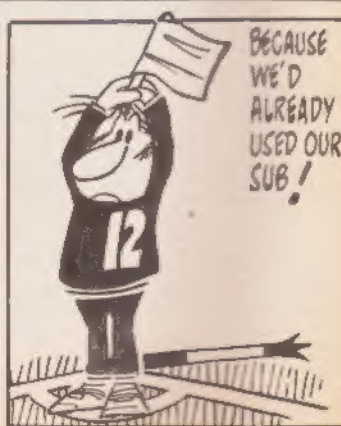
BUT HE INSISTED ON CARRYING ON

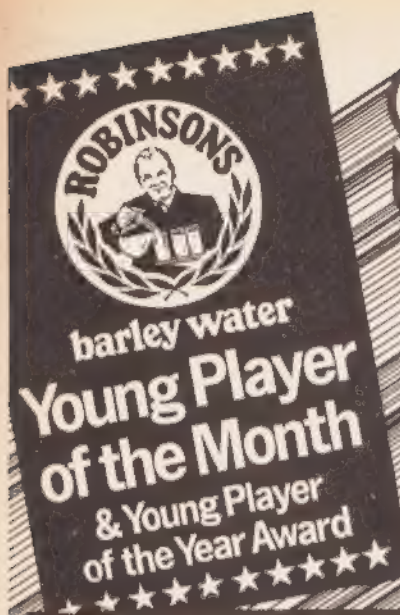


AND WHEN IT GOT WORSE HE COULDN'T COME OFF



BECAUSE WE'D ALREADY USED OUR SUB!





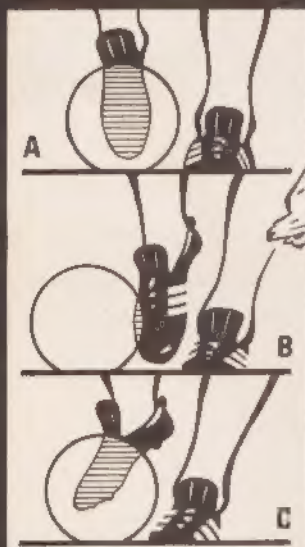
SHOOTING TO SUCCESS

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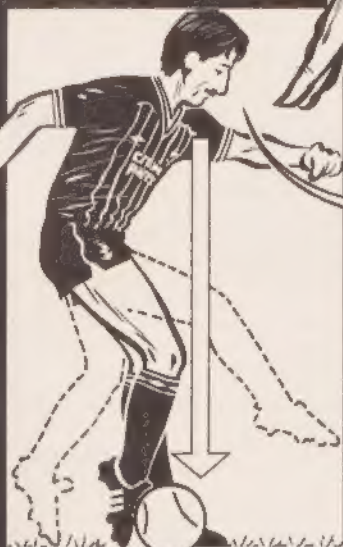
IAN RUSH

LIVERPOOL & WALES

ROBINSONS BARLEY WATER
YOUNG PLAYER OF THE YEAR / 1983



STRIKING THE BALL: Practice these kicks continually. Hit it firmly with: A) Instep B) Outside and C) Inside of foot.



TOP STRIKERS
KEEP THEIR
EYE ON THE BALL
AND HIT IT REALLY
CLEANLY. KEEP
THE BALL DOWN
AND TRY NOT TO
HAVE TOO BIG A
BACK-LIFT.

DEFENDER

SOUNESS

RUSH

DEFENDER

POSITIONING: Look before you kick! Approach wide. Then you can lay-off to a team-mate or take the ball in yourself.



Practice turning sharply. Dribbling round posts is great exercise in ball control.

***KEEP SHARP!**
— AND KEEP ON THE
MOVE — TRY TO IMPROVE
YOUR SPEED OFF THE
MARK — GET TO IT!

HERE'S MY TOP-PRO TIP — SHORTEN YOUR STRIDE WHEN YOU'RE SPRINTING AND PRACTICE 6 OR 7 SHORT SPRINTS OF 10-30 YDS. EVERY TRAINING SESSION. THAT'S WHAT I DO.

**NEXT MONTH
HEADING FOR
SUCCESS**

STAR WRITER

Bryan Robson

ENGLAND REPORT

WE WON DIDN'T WE?

ENGLAND have been beaten three times in three years. Does that make us a bad team?

You would think that we have no chance of qualifying for the next World Cup judging by the vicious comments made about our performance against Northern Ireland.

I'd like to remind our critics that we won that game 1-0. And if you want my honest opinion, it was a fine achievement to come off that Wembley pitch with a victory when you consider the problems Bobby Robson faced in fielding 11 fit men.

The sad fact of life is that our system makes it almost impossible for the England manager to field his "best" team. The 11 best players are rarely available.

So he has to make do with what he has got — and to beat the Irish, who are no pushover these days — was a fine performance.

People blamed the defence but I hope they remember that Alan

Kennedy, Viv Anderson, Graham Roberts and Terry Butcher had never played together before.

I'm sick of making excuses and want to repeat that, given an injury free list to choose from, Bobby Robson will get us to the World Cup Finals.

We've got the players, we believe we can do it, and we will show what we're worth. But even as I say this one of our best players, Glenn Hoddle, is seriously concerned about his Achilles injury; and Gordon Cowans is recovering...

Do you know something, when I lie down in bed at the end of the day I hardly ever feel 100 per cent fit. I think that says something for our system — and it always reflects on England's performances.

Bryan Robson.

Now Bryan talks about some of the personalities who have figured prominently in his amazing career.

GOOD LOSER

MY respect for former West Bromwich Albion manager Ronnie Allen reached rock bottom in our UEFA Cup campaign of 1981-82.

I was already beginning to question Albion's lack of ambition but couldn't believe what I was hearing in the dressing-room before our First Round, first-leg game against Zurich Grasshoppers in Switzerland.

Ronnie Allen actually said he would settle for a 1-0 defeat!

It was an important match but the manager was talking of defeat. Never before, or since, have I heard a manager dish out such a bewildering battle command.

"Remember lads, we've a second leg, a chance to get them back home and I'll settle for a 1-0 defeat. We can kill them at The Hawthorns," were his words.

We lost the second-leg 3-1.



Ronnie Allen

the rescue. The next morning the body-building began. First came a concoction which contained a raw egg, beaten in with some milk, sugar and a tot of sherry.

Next there was the cereal which was usually followed by a cooked breakfast. At first it felt as though I'd eaten an entire army's rations, and early morning training was a difficult chore with so much food weighing me down.

There was a lunch snack of a sandwich or some chips in the supporters club next to the ground, and then came the evening meal, a plate piled high with food.

It might surprise you to know that although football clubs frown on players drinking alcohol, West Brom instructed me to drink a

glass of stout every night.

The diet worked a treat. No longer did they say "you're too small, Robson." I'm now 5ft 10½ins, weighing 11 stone 9lb.

CANED

I WOULDN'T think too many footballers have suffered the indignity of double punishment — a sending-off followed by the cane.

It happened to me at school, which possibly explains why I have since tried my utmost never to upset referees.

The sending-off came in a school practice match.

The going was getting fierce and the games master blew for a foul against me.

For no reason other than sheer frustration, I hoofed the ball away in temper.

"Right, Robson, you're off," snapped the teacher.

He ordered me to run round the pitch until I had lost my temper. A good 20 minutes went by and I was still pounding round the touchline. The master was showing no interest in me, so when the play was at the other end I started to walk.

The teacher ordered me to report to the headmaster, who gave me two very painful whacks across the backside with his cane.

It makes me wonder today when they have so much trouble in schools and at football matches — perhaps we are getting soft these days.

KEEGAN'S INFLUENCE

I WOULD have liked to have seen Kevin Keegan employed as a non-playing captain of England if his services as a player were no longer required.

The presence of Keegan in an England squad was invaluable. British tennis teams usually have a non-playing captain who is there to help, guide and coach the squad, and I believe Keegan should have been used in this way.

I couldn't believe the amount of stick we took in the Press after beating Northern Ireland at Wembley.



As a senior professional he would have helped to encourage and advise the younger players. Keegan was a man who we all learned from, and his sudden departure left quite a gap.

On the other hand, Bobby Robson wanted to build his team and rightly pointed out that it was the future and the 1986 World Cup which had to be in our sights.



Kevin Keegan set a great example.

STOUT FELLOW

KEVIN Keegan was once turned down by Coventry because they thought he was too small. I was luckier. West Bromwich Albion thought I was too small but took a chance in deciding to build me up.

When I signed apprentice professional forms at The Hawthorns in the summer of 1972, I was only 4 feet 11 inches tall, weighing six stones, which for a 15-year-old footballer was not much good.

The club gave me a mountain of paper about what to eat and drink, and what exercises to do at home.

My landlady, Mrs Curtis, came to



GARY'S GOAL

MY brother Gary is doing well at West Brom. He has always been the most determined and single-minded member of our family.

I once offered him one of my England caps. He turned me down, politely.

"No thanks, Bryan," he said. "I want to win one of my own." I hope he does.

ROBSON'S XI

HAVE you ever tried to pick your best British XI? My enthusiasm for picking a team such as this was fired when I watched the Rest of the World against England at Wembley in 1963.

Yashin, di Stefano, Eusebio, Puskas ... all the greats played that afternoon.

My British XI is based on players I've admired in recent years. I make no apologies for my England bias.

Peter Shilton; Phil Neal, Kenny Sansom; Dave Watson, Mark Lawrenson; Glenn Hoddle, Ray Wilkins, Trevor Brooking; Kenny Dalglish, Kevin Keegan, Trevor Francis.

That team would play skilful and entertaining football. There seems to be a worrying shift towards the old kick and rush style. This team would give Brazil a run for their money.

SORRY

ONE of my biggest regrets is that I did not take a supporters silk cap off my head when I received the F.A. Cup from Princess Michael in 1983.

When I reached the top of the steps at the Royal Box I remember somebody patting me on the head to acknowledge United's victory over Brighton in the replay. I didn't realise they'd planted the silk cap on my head.

Had I realised I would have taken it off before meeting the Princess.

I received a telling off from my wife, Denise, and have wanted to apologise to the Princess ever since.

TERRY'S TIP

IOWE Newcastle's former England player Terry McDermott a debt of gratitude for the help he gave me in improving my shooting.

There was a time when I used to rush towards goal and as soon as I saw an opening and the chance to shoot, blast the ball.

After an England training session Terry told me where I was going wrong.

He told me: "When the chance to shoot comes, Bryan, pause a second and instead of simply cracking the ball towards the target, try to vary the finish."

He reckoned I was too predictable. His advice helped a lot.



Terry McDermott (left) gave me useful advice, but one United supporter's gift wasn't quite so welcome (below)!

comparison England spend two or three days together every two months. It's not enough.

If England are to rise again as a powerful soccer nation, we have to look very seriously at giving more time to the cause.

Why not devote a whole month of the year, say May or June or even August to international football?

GIVE US TIME

THE England team must spend more time together than current club commitments allow.

The Brazilians and Argentinians are masters at planning for big matches and tournaments. By



WHEN Alan Kennedy achieved his lifelong ambition by turning out for England against Northern Ireland at Wembley, the popular Liverpool left-back found it difficult to believe he had finally won his first full international cap.

"It was only in the dressing-room before the match, after I pulled the England shirt over my head, that I knew my long wait was over," says Alan.

"I spent nine long years wondering if I would ever play for my country.

"I never stopped having faith in myself, apart from a couple of occasions when the odd twinges of doubt crept in. Now, having been selected, I like to think I was chosen on merit."

Before the 29-year-old Kennedy received the news of his England call-up, he had made his 165th consecutive appearance for Liverpool, an outstanding achievement and sufficient proof that consistency was the name of his game.

Scoring important goals, too, is part of the Kennedy game, as he has proved in Cup competitions, even if he didn't quite manage to find the net in Liverpool's Milk Cup Final meetings with Everton.

Says Kennedy: "I thought I would score after one run I made, but after doing all the hard approach work my shot wasn't properly struck.

"But I would like to pay tribute to Everton. After not doing much up to the halfway stage of the season they have blossomed into a side which is hard to beat with players like Adrian Heath and Graeme Sharp, who are not easy



Alan moves in to tackle Northern Ireland's Gerry Armstrong.

'I'm no one-cap wonder'

says
ALAN KENNEDY

to contain.

"In the Milk Cup Everton put tremendous pressure on us with their combination of strong running and skill.

"Fortunately, Liverpool's experience of the big occasion eventually pulled us through in matches which were a great advertisement for the skill of both teams — and also for the sporting spirit of the supporters."

While Liverpool's Cup duels were hard-fought affairs, the Anfield club are involved in another tremendous struggle with Manchester United to decide the destination of the First Division Championship.

And Kennedy says: "Manchester United are a hard team to shake off. They've been consistent and made it plain that we can't afford to slip up.

"In fact, at this stage I wouldn't like to predict who will finish on top, United or Liverpool — it's a two-horse race.

"Our challenge should be strengthened by the addition of John Wark to the playing pool. He impressed me in his first game for us against Watford with his timing

Kennedy has put aside his England ambitions to concentrate on his Liverpool duties.

and finishing ability.

"When John was at Ipswich, we always found him difficult to play against, and he reminds me of Craig Johnston in his anticipation and approach to the game."

Kennedy is hoping that his recent inclusion in the England side will be followed by further international appearances.

He says: "Having realised my ambition to gain an England cap, I don't think it is too late for me to set myself another target — the 1986 World Cup.

"When it comes along I will be just over 30 and expect to have plenty of football left in me.

"I know in soccer you can be kicked in the teeth when things are going your way. Your first cap could be your last.

"I concentrate on one match at a time, and after playing against Northern Ireland the only match that occupied my thoughts was Liverpool's against West Ham on the following Saturday.

"Whatever happens my debut for England was a great experience. Although the pressure is on whenever you play at Wembley, I always find the atmosphere and the pitch strangely relaxing.

"It is a pitch I enjoy playing on and I'm delighted that my first international match on it ended in a win over Northern Ireland."



EASTER DERBY

NEWCASTLE v CARLISLE

James' Park confrontation between the Northcountry rivals. "Anybody who misses this match should have his head examined," says Craig. "There will be more than 30,000 fans in the

ground, including a fair contingent from Carlisle, and the atmosphere they create will in itself be worth the admission money.

"After spending two happy

Battle royal at St. James'

NEWCASTLE's Easter clash with Carlisle has all the necessary ingredients to be a crowd-puller — a promotion battle and local derby, the mighty Magpies against the canny Cumbrians.

Tommy Craig, Carlisle's key midfield player and former Newcastle favourite, is in no doubt about the importance of this St.



Carlisle centre-forward Malcolm Poskett, seen here scoring against Oldham, will be a key figure at St. James' Park on Monday, as will Newcastle's Terry McDermott (left).

years at Newcastle, I know exactly what to expect at St. James' Park. In Kevin Keegan, Peter Beardsley and Chris Waddle, United have three outstanding forwards who will put tremendous pressure on us, backed up by Terry McDermott, the man with a great talent for scoring vital goals.

"But we've the best defensive record in the Division and can also score goals, as we proved in our 3-1 win over Newcastle earlier this season. At the very least I expect us to draw."

Terry McDermott believes Newcastle can gain revenge for that earlier defeat and says: "Whatever happens, the meeting is a great event for the area."

"Ideally, I would like both teams to finish among the top three. On the strength of their results over past months, Carlisle have put themselves right into the reckoning."

"Tommy Craig, my old team-mate in his Newcastle days, is an experienced player whose classy distribution could influence the game, and so much will depend on the form of each team on that day."

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OF SEASON
SALE

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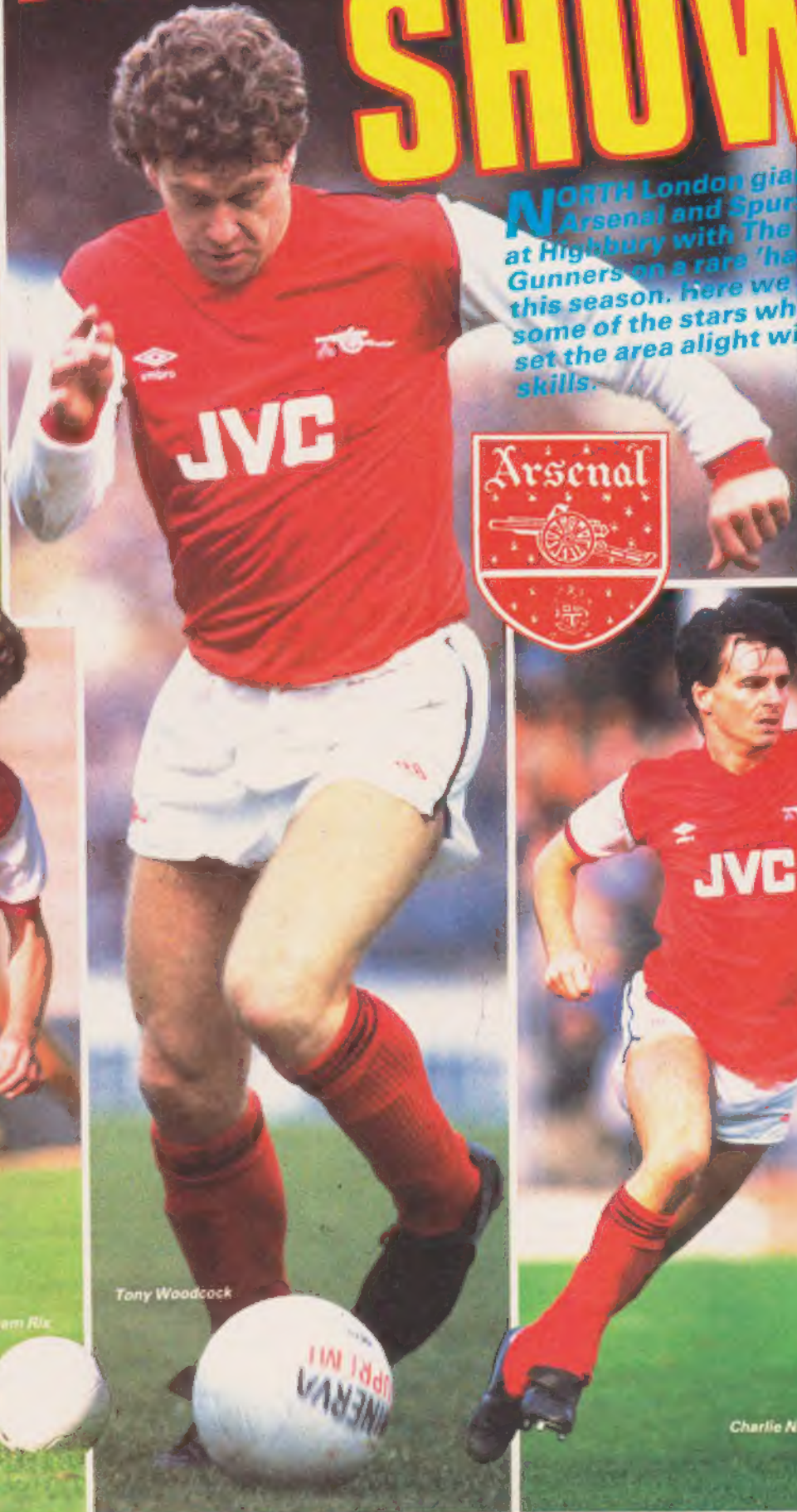
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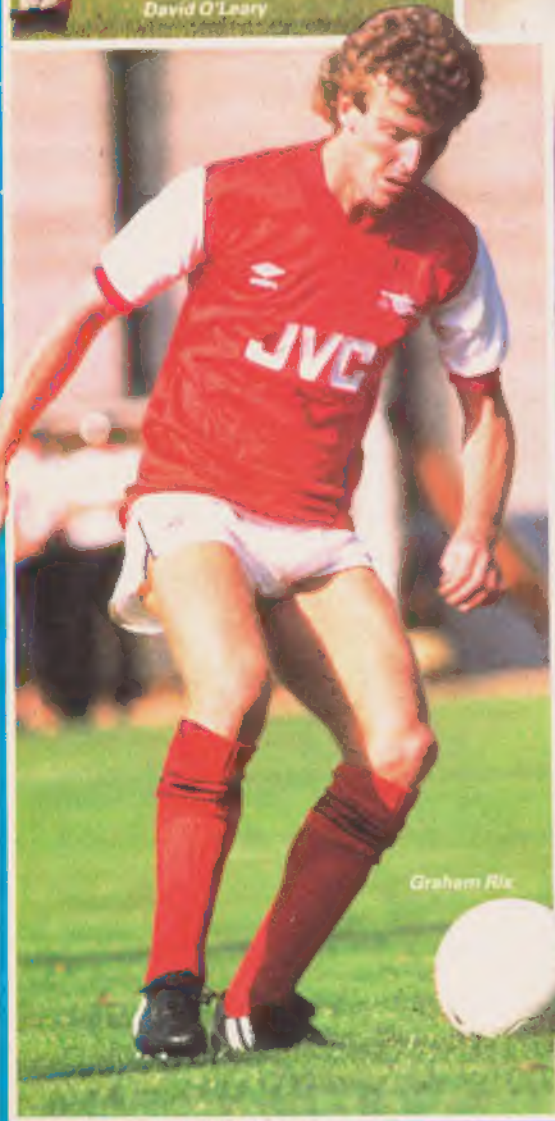
David O'Leary

HIGHBURY SHOW

NORTH London giants Arsenal and Spurs clash at Highbury with The Gunners on a rare 'hat-trick' this season. Here we picture some of the stars who will set the area alight with their skills.



Tony Woodcock



Graham Rix



Charlie Nicholas

OWN!



SHOOT!

I'VE a message for those people who think I reserve my best form for matches against Tottenham — I can do a lot better than that!

In two games at White Hart Lane this season I've scored three times, but I don't rate either as my best performance for Arsenal.

In our 2-1 Milk Cup win last November I scored my first goal for more than two months yet still didn't play particularly well.

I was much happier with my form when we won 4-2 in the League there on Boxing Day.

I scored twice and had a hand in one of Raphael Meade's two as we took Spurs to the cleaners.

Struggled

But don't ask me why I've scored so frequently against our North London neighbours when I've struggled for goals against virtually every other First Division team.

There's no hidden weakness in the Spurs defence.

They are an attacking team but not one who throw caution to the wind.

And in Graham Roberts I reckon they've got one of the finest defenders in Britain today.

Most players would agree with me when I describe Graham as a hard but honest player. Every team needs someone like him.

And at Highbury this Saturday we'll resume the battle which

CHARLIE NICHOLAS

More goals for me!



**EASTER
DERBY**

STAR WRITERS CLASH ARSENAL v SPURS

GARY MABBUTT

Hazard warning

ONE of the worst experiences in football is losing at home to your fiercest rivals — and it's happened to us twice this season.

Arsenal won at White Hart Lane in the Milk Cup and then in the League on Boxing Day.

Now we're aiming to get our revenge at Highbury and to give them a taste of their own medicine.

In case Arsenal are under the impression that the double they did on us has given us some sort of inferiority complex, I give them fair warning they can expect a Tottenham side full of confidence from a return to form.

Despite the fact that the club is still bugged by injuries and our defence in particular changes from week to week, we are better organised in that department.

Our 'keeper, Tony Parks, is proving to be a fine replacement for Ray Clemence, who lost his first team place recently with a fractured finger.

Probably the most improved player at Spurs is Mike Hazard. The management used to feel he tended to "decorate" a game, which I suppose means that he was not as effective as he looked.

Now he's involved for every minute, keeps his concentration and scores match-winning goals, like the ones against Wolves and Coventry.

Arsenal are looking a better balanced side since the signing of Tommy Caton from Manchester City.

I've always enjoyed derby games and thrive on the special atmosphere



started at Wembley last June in my first England v Scotland game. I was substituted on that occasion and not too much has gone right for me on the international front since then. But the forthcoming derby game is sure to attract a lot of attention, so maybe a couple more goals will improve my international chances. Everyone at the club is really looking forward to Tottenham's visit.

At this stage of the season we're trying to adopt the professional attitude of regarding it as just another three points to be won, but that's easier said than done.

It's the kind of game everyone wants to play in, and I'm no exception. I just hope my dodgy ankle holds out. Having last week's game at Everton brought forward by five days has helped.

Like us, Spurs are still in the hunt for a place in the UEFA Cup, so we've even more incentive to pick up all three points on Saturday.

But most of all we want to win for our fans. They've stuck by us in a season when we've given them very little to cheer.

The victories at White Hart Lane have been among the few highlights of our season so far. A third win would be the best way possible of saying thank you.

Chappin

Thanks, Keith

A Spurs win will mean even more to one person than anyone else. A very special person, Keith Burkinshaw, whose announced resignation at the end of the season gave me one of my biggest shocks.

I owe so much to Keith. He's the man who plucked me from Third Division Bristol Rovers and turned me into an England international in three months.

He's also the man responsible for bringing so much success to the club — success that just about every other manager must envy.

The reason given for Keith's decision to leave the club is our failure to win the Championship. But what put us out of the running this season was the dreadful succession of injuries to key players — and he can't be blamed for that.

We'll all miss Keith. But with his track record he's bound to be scooped up by another top club, and they'll count themselves lucky.

As for his replacement, a lot of names have been put forward and all I'll predict is that the next Spurs boss won't be a foreigner!

David Goodall

EASTER DERBY

Ipswich manager Bobby Ferguson has a double reason for wanting to lead his side to victory over East Anglian rivals Norwich City on Easter Monday.

Not only would the three points assist their First Division survival bid, a win would also put an end to the derby jinx that has plagued

IPSWICH v NORWICH

him his first chance to make the grade as a professional. He recalls:

"I had a date to go to Portman Road for a trial but a week or so beforehand I accepted an invitation from Norwich.

"I did fairly well and they seemed quite interested in me. But nothing was decided there and then and when I received a firm offer from Ipswich I didn't hesitate

Will the hoodoo strike again?

Ferguson since he took control at Portman Road.

It's a fact that in his two seasons in charge Ipswich have been unable to beat Norwich at any level — first team, reserves or youths — and it's a record Ferguson is desperate to change.

While The Canaries of Carrow Road have been chirping merrily away during a season that has seen them spend most of their time in the top half of the table, their Suffolk rivals have plunged headlong into relegation trouble.

Stars

Norwich have secured manager Ken Brown and key players Chris Woods and Dave Watson on long-term contracts while Ipswich have had to say farewell to a string of international stars in a bid to keep the bank manager happy.

The pendulum of power has certainly swung in the direction of Norfolk and for the first time it is Ipswich who find themselves cast as East Anglia's poor relations.

"I must admit I'm fed up at our lack of success against Norwich," says Ipswich skipper Terry Butcher, "and I hadn't realised our record against them at all levels was quite as bad as it is."

Butcher was born in Singapore while his father was serving in the Royal Navy there but he was raised in Lowestoft and was always an Ipswich fan.

But it was Norwich who gave



Terry Butcher and Keith Burkinshaw clash again on Easter Monday

CROSSWORD

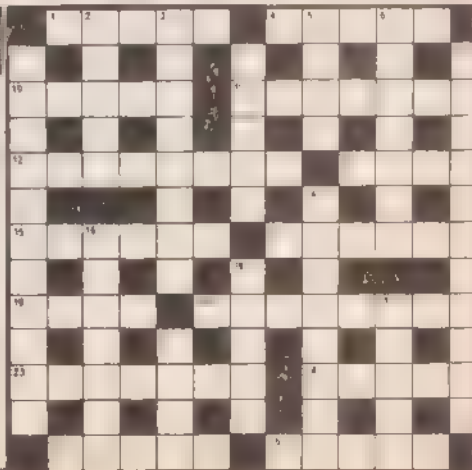
ACROSS

- (1) Eric —, Aberdeen striker (5)
- (4) A contest between two teams (5)
- (10) Don — was Footballer of the Year in 1955 and Manager of the Year in '89, '70 & '72 (5)
- (11) Denny —, Southampton winger (7)
- (12) Viv —, Nottingham Forest defender (8)
- (13) An adhesive from the initial letters of Leeds United, Everton & Gillingham (4)
- (15) Mark —, ———lain of 24 Across (6)
- (17) The 4th, 5th, 2nd, 7th, 9th & last letters of Manchester United (5)
- (18) Kevin Br-adsh—t, Birmingham City midfielder (4)
- (20) Tristan —, Notts County defender (6)
- (23) "The —" nickname of Arsenal (7)
- (24) City "The Pottery" from the Victoria Ground (5)
- (25) Denis —, Leeds defender (5)

- (26) Alan S — and Arsenal striker currently on loan at Ipswich (5)

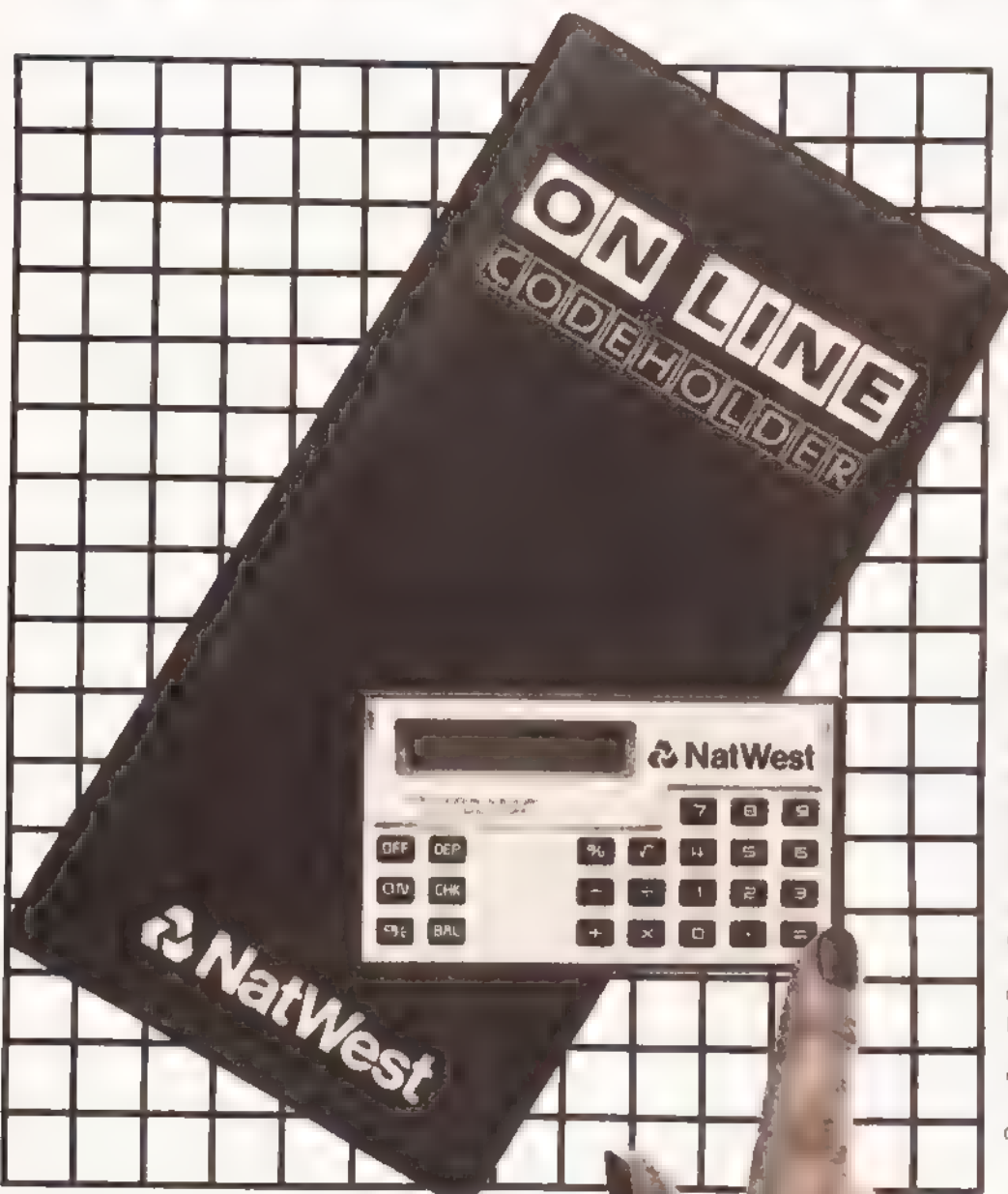
DOWN

- (2) C — e Whit —, WBA player (5)
- (3) "The —" nickname of Bournemouth (8)
- (5) — McGoust, Rangers striker (4)
- (6) Jeremy —, QPR striker (7)
- (7) Manager of Nottingham Forest (5 & 6)
- (8) — Park ground of Blackburn Rovers (5)
- (9) Wolves midfielder player (5 & 6)
- (14) Frans —, Nottingham Forest midfielder & Footballer of the Year 1981 (8)
- (16) Paul —, Arsenal striker (7)
- (18) Joey Jones (Chelsea) is such an international (5)
- (21) Bobby — played a record 106 games for England (5)
- (22) Moses —, Manchester United midfielder player (4)



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STAR WRITER

TREVOR FRANCIS I WON'T PLAY IN ENGLAND!

MANCHESTER UNITED were my boyhood heroes and I was on the verge for signing for them when I left Forest, but ended up at Manchester City.

When City made me available for transfer I would have jumped at the chance of going to Old Trafford had they come in for me.

But Sampdoria made the right offer and I was on my way to Italy.

Recent reports have again linked me with United. I don't know if there is any truth in the rumours, but I have a message for Ron Atkinson

I don't want to play for Manchester United — or any other English club!

Several leading Continental clubs have also made enquiries about me — and the same goes for them.

I've no interest in going to Spain, West Germany, Holland or anywhere.

As you know, my contract is due to be renewed in June and although nothing official has been announced it appears Sampdoria would like me to stay.

Offered

Liam Brady has already been offered new terms. But he hasn't made his mind up yet.

Like me, Liam loves Italy and wants to remain in the country.

Why move if you are happy? I've certainly no wish to uproot my family again and start a whole new life in another country.

People have often asked me why I left England in the first place.

Initially for the money. But that's no longer the case. My family enjoy a great lifestyle in beautiful surroundings and I'm playing in the best League in the world.

Come home? Only to play for England!

You wouldn't believe how proud I was when Bobby Robson phoned to ask me to join the squad for the Northern Ireland game.

Whenever the England boss starts a conversation with me he always asks the same question: "Are you fit?"

My fitness problems have been embarrassing, both for England and Sampdoria.

I reported for England duty the morning after playing in Sampdoria's away victory at Udinese on Sunday, April 1st.

I played in only the first-half. For

some reason coach Renzo Uliverti substituted me at half-time.

At first I thought it was Renzo's April Fool joke

When I realised he was serious I stormed out without giving him the chance to explain

Brian Clough didn't help calm my temper when I landed in England and read his column in a Sunday newspaper

He said Bobby Robson shouldn't have picked me, but given a young player the chance of a cap.

Brian also said it could cost the F.A. more in fares and hotel expenses getting me over than they'd take at the Wembley gate.

I don't usually take what Cloughie says too seriously, but I will make this offer here and now I will pay my own air fares and expenses to play for England. It means that much to me.

Cloughie has also warned my mate Bryan Robson not to play in "dirty Italian football".

In my experience, it's no dirtier than anywhere else.

I now invite Brian over to watch me play in the Italian League and let him judge the standard of play for himself. And I will even pay his expenses and give him as much spaghetti and wine as he wants. Over to you, Brian!

STAR FINDER FILE

The series the game's talking about



GRAEME KIRKUP

EXETER CITY

Position: Full back
Age: 18
Height: 5ft 10ins
Weight: 12st 2lbs
Appearances: 50
Goals: —

Strengths: Strong in the tackle and comfortable in the air, he's a solid and reliable defender — but can also go forward and attack with considerable skill. Very comfortable on the ball, and a good left foot. Very quick.

Weaknesses: Mainly those of any teenager still learning the game. Tends at times to lack confidence, so can be inconsistent.

Manager Gerry Francis' verdict: "His confidence had suffered from going in and out of the team, but this season he's played regularly and worked hard. He was unlucky to be a month too old for England Youth — but if he goes on working and begins to believe a little more in his own ability he could have a big future."

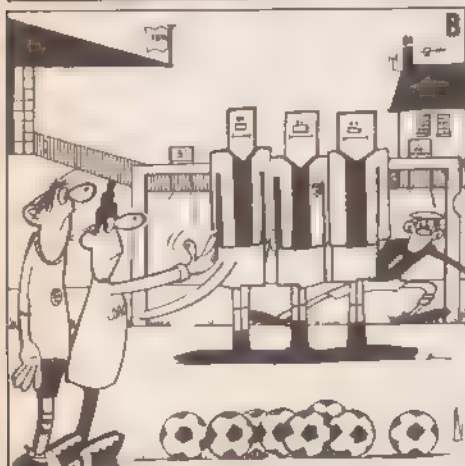
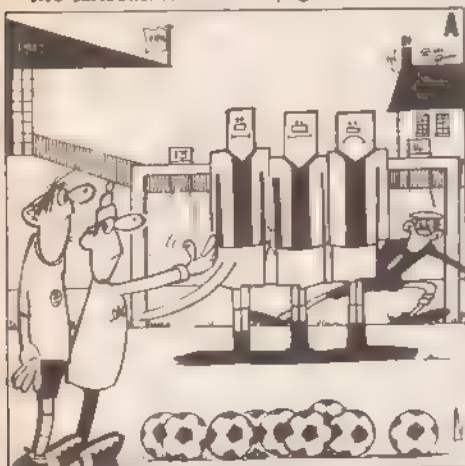
HOW THE RATING WORKS

- 5 — Work to be done — but could make the grade
- 6 — With luck could make an impact
- 7 — Obvious potential, but need time to adjust
- 8 — Should make the grade
- 9 — All the hallmarks of quality
- 10 — Could make international class

First Division potential rating: 8

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

See if you can spot ten differences between the two cartoons. Answers on page 35



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IS CLOUGH

'Fairclough will be a centre-half to watch'

BRIAN Clough isn't a man to throw out rave reviews on his own players like confetti in springtime. So the football world sat up and listened when he sang the praises of a young coloured central defender who has broken through to make a major impact this season.

But what do Chris Fairclough's fellow defenders think of the Forest lad, and what about a well known striker? How did he rate the Forest kid?

We talked to three central defenders and a striker to assess Fairclough's chances of living up to his manager's high hopes.

'Long way to go' Allan Evans

ASTON Villa's Scottish centre-half Allan Evans says: "Chris seems to have developed very well. For a lad who has only just got into the Forest first team, Clough's words are high praise indeed — but Fairclough has a long way to go."

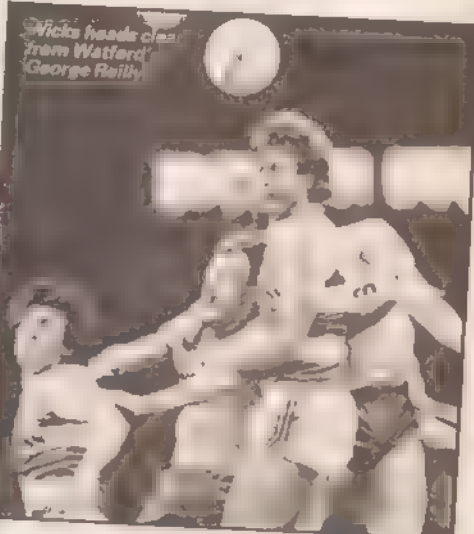
"You don't become a good player in half a dozen games, and certainly not a great one in a dozen. You need to show your quality over two or even three consistent seasons."

"He has immense promise and is already one of the best players around in his position. But he faces some pretty tough opposition."

"England seem to be pretty well off for central defenders at the moment, and I can't see anyone having it all his own way in getting the England spot on a regular basis."

"One thing will help Fairclough. You must have respect for the man you are working for and you cannot work under a better manager than Clough. His players respect him, you can see that on the field in every match."

"Clough will bring the youngster along in the right way and help him a great deal. He couldn't have found a better tutor."



'Good vision' Steve Wicks

QPR centre-half Steve Wicks believes Fairclough has a bright future. He says: "He is a very good young player with a lot of potential. And playing alongside Paul Hart for Forest will help him through. I have always rated Hart."

"Fairclough is very sharp, good in the air although he isn't that big and has the look of a good defender. He has good vision and reads the game well even though he is young and inexperienced. He has good pace and seems to be a solid all-round central defender."

"If he keeps on improving, then he has every chance of making it right to the top. But there are a lot of good centre-halves around these days."

"At this particular time, I don't think I would say Fairclough is a better player than someone like Mark Wright of Southampton or Dave Watson of Norwich."

"Not too long ago, people were saying there wasn't a decent centre-half coming through anywhere in England to replace the likes of Dave Watson. Now there seem to be lots of good quality youngsters and Fairclough isn't going to have things his own way by any means."



RIGHT ABOUT CHRIS?

be the first black
play for England?

Clough comes out tops in this duel
Manchester United striker
Frank Stapleton.



'Fine prospect' Paul Elliott

THE theme of strong competition is backed up by Luton's young defender Paul Elliott, also rated an outstanding prospect.

"There are, of course, two central defenders already established to a certain extent — Alvin Martin and Terry Butcher," says Paul.

"Both of them are comparatively young and after that, you have Dave Watson, Graham Roberts, Mark Wright, Steve Wicks, Steve Foster, and a few others.

In fact, I'm hoping that I'll be England's first black centre-half."

"So Chris Fairclough doesn't have a straight-forward path into the England team. Two years ago he would probably have walked straight into the senior side without much experience because there wasn't cover for Dave Watson, the ex-Manchester City and Southampton player. But things have changed."

But Elliott does rate Fairclough as a fine prospect, saying: "Although he is not that big, he does look a good player."

"Despite that lack of real dominating height, he still competes well in the air. He coped quite adequately against Paul Walsh and Brian Stein when Forest beat us at Kenilworth Road this season."

"Chris may need to fill out a bit physically before reaching international standard. But good luck to him, because he is a nice guy."

"I would like to remind him, however, that I hope to have some say in those central defensive positions in the England side in years to come. So I promise him he won't have it all his own way."

Striker's verdict: 'Every chance' Garry Thompson

THE verdict on promising Fairclough is completed by a striker — West Bromwich Albion's Garry Thompson. And Thompson should remember playing against Fairclough and Forest — Clough's men walloped Albion 5-0 at The Hawthorns in February to leap into second place in the Championship race.

Thompson says: "Fairclough did impress me that night. He isn't too aggressive or physical but he does his job in a neat, quiet yet effective kind of way. He could go all the way to the top and I don't think Clough's words will do him any harm."

"He looks to have most of the attributes — good and competitive in the air, he reads the game well, is quick and hard into the tackle and seems to have a good temperament."

"Cloughie's words may be a spur to him because it is nice to hear praise from your manager. Clough won't let him get big-headed about it, though. He'll keep Fairclough's feet on the ground."

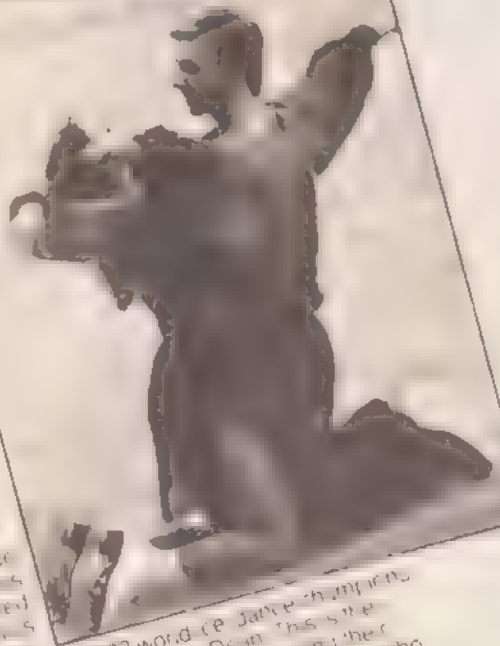
"The youngster certainly has a good reputation. We were told before our game against Forest that he was a good player in the making and he certainly lived up to that billing."

"It's a bit hard to say whether he will be England material because it's so early in his career. But he has every chance at this stage, anyway."



Tonvill & Dean

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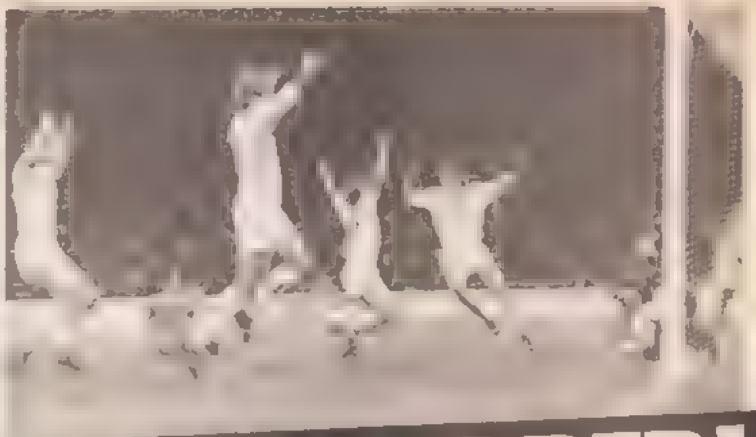
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ONE HUNDRED!

Cork's popping in the goals

WIMBLEDON hot-shot Alan Cork has certainly come back with a bang after a mammoth injury lay-off which limited him to just 13 League games in the two previous

He's already topped his previous best goals haul — and club record — of 23 League goals in a season, reached the milestone of 100 goals for The Dons, has his sights very firmly fixed on carrying off the Shoot Adidas Third Division Golden Shoe award — and has become something of a video star into the bargain!



'Better'

"It certainly has been a fantastic season for me — and one I hope can get even better" says the striker who talks almost as fast as he scores goals

"It's the kind of thing I never imagined even in my wildest dreams while I was out for such a long time with a broken leg."

Now the only leg trouble the 24-year-old striker has is the leg-pulling by his team-mates over his starring role in Wimbledon's home video

"There's a film being compiled of all the goals we've scored at home, and as I've notched the vast majority of mine at Plough Lane, I seem to appear quite a lot," explains Alan.

"When we sit down to watch it, the lads all reckon I crop up on the

box more times than Terry Wogan!"

West London star he may be, but Cork doesn't really get the wider recognition his goalscoring deserves

"Now and then it rankles me a bit when I see the kind of treatment goalscorers get in the First and Second Divisions, because as most professionals will tell you, scoring goals consistently — and that's the key factor — isn't easy no matter what level you play at."

"It's a knack, and once you have it, I believe you never lose it. That's why I'm confident that if Wimbledon make it to Division Two next season, the goals will continue to go in for me."

"And I believe I could do the business in the First Division, too, for that matter."

WHO IS YOUR MOST EXCITING PLAYER OF THE YEAR?

We give you the chance to vote
for him in next week's SHOOT.

RANGERS v CELTIC



travelling squad. The competition is keen and we are all determined to get back at Celtic for that League defeat at Parkhead."

After that defeat Wallace grumbled: "We gave away daft goals and paid the penalty..."

But behind those words there was massive disappointment. The game was important to Wallace and Rangers. It was the ideal opportunity to nail the critics who said Rangers had won the League Cup simply because Celtic were so bad on the day.

Wallace, naturally, won't tolerate talk like that and he will want to bury any echoes of that sentiment when the clubs meet again at Ibrox.

Celtic, on the other hand, will not admit the League Championship is a foregone conclusion until it is mathematically impossible for them to lift the flag.

"We must keep plugging away," says manager Hay. "I said this before our recent League match at Parkhead against Aberdeen. We beat them 1-0, and followed that up with the win over Rangers. But dropping a point at St. Johnstone did us no favours."

"All we can do is to keep playing and hope we can chip away Aberdeen's lead. We've still got everything to play for."

Willie McStay stepped out of the shadow of his more famous brother Paul during Celtic's three-goal demolition job against Rangers and he says: "I was as disappointed as anyone when we lost the League Cup Final."

"I wasn't included in the Final 13 — Jim Melrose and Graeme Sinclair were the substitutes —

"Paul and I made history earlier in the season when we played together in the 2-1 triumph over Rangers at Parkhead. Now we have both scored in the same game against our old rivals. I wonder if that feat will ever be repeated?"

"I just hope I'm playing again on Saturday. It would be something else to repeat the performance, wouldn't it?"

Willie McStay has emerged as more than just a fringe player at Parkhead this season and he complements his defensive partner Tom McAdam. It could be that Roy Aitken's future with Celtic now rests in a midfield role alongside Paul McStay, Murdo MacLeod and Tommy Burns.

The sparks always fly when Rangers and Celtic provide the opposition and Saturday will be no exception. The Ibrox fans are eager to see their team win their first League encounter against the Parkhead men in two seasons.

They will remember last season's final League game against their most ferocious rivals at Ibrox. Goals from Sandy Clark and Davie Cooper gave them a 2-0 half-time advantage. The final score? Celtic won 4-2 with goals from Frank McGarvey, Tom McAdam and two penalties from

Big Jock aims to stop the rot

THE disappointment Celtic felt when they lost 3-2 to Rangers in the League Cup Final at Hampden last month was there for almost 55,000 fans to see when the Old Firm met again at Parkhead on Monday, April 2.

Davie Hay's men roared into their rivals and goals from the McStay brothers, Paul and Willie, as well as another from Davie Provan gave Celtic a thoroughly deserved 3-0 triumph.

Rangers were left in tatters and only captain John McClelland could hold his head high as he left Parkhead that night. But for a heroic performance by the big Irishman at the heart of the Ibrox defence, Celtic would have won even more handsomely.

This Saturday (April 21) the Glasgow giants meet for the fourth and final time in the League this season and it's Jock Wallace's side who will be aiming for vengeance.

Celtic have won the previous three League matches (2-1, 2-1, 3-0) and are determined to make it four in a row.

But Ally McCoist, Rangers' hat-trick hero in their League Cup Final victory at Hampden, says: "Even though we have no chance of winning the League title, we will have a big say in who does."

"There will be no easing up from us. The boss wouldn't stand for that."

"We're going on a round-the-world trip during the close season and every player at Ibrox is playing for a place in the

and I watched the game from the dug-out.

"But I got over my disappointment when Mr. Hay played me the following week against Aberdeen at Parkhead. I thoroughly enjoyed that game and it was marvellous to score against Rangers."

Jim Melrose celebrates Paul McStay's goal as Celtic take the lead in their recent League game against Rangers at Parkhead. This Saturday Rangers are looking to avenge that 3-0 defeat when the old firm rivals meet at Ibrox.

Charlie Nicholas.

Nothing can be taken for granted in an Old Firm game. Events in recent seasons have underlined that. The thousands of fans at Ibrox on Saturday will witness the latest chapter of what is known as the greatest club game in football.



EASTER DERBY

on Celtic's dangerous
Frank McGarvey.



OLD FIRM FURY

CELTIC'S 3-2 Scottish League Cup Final defeat was avenged eight days later when they beat Rangers 3-0 in the League. So who'll win the Easter Saturday clash at Ibrox?

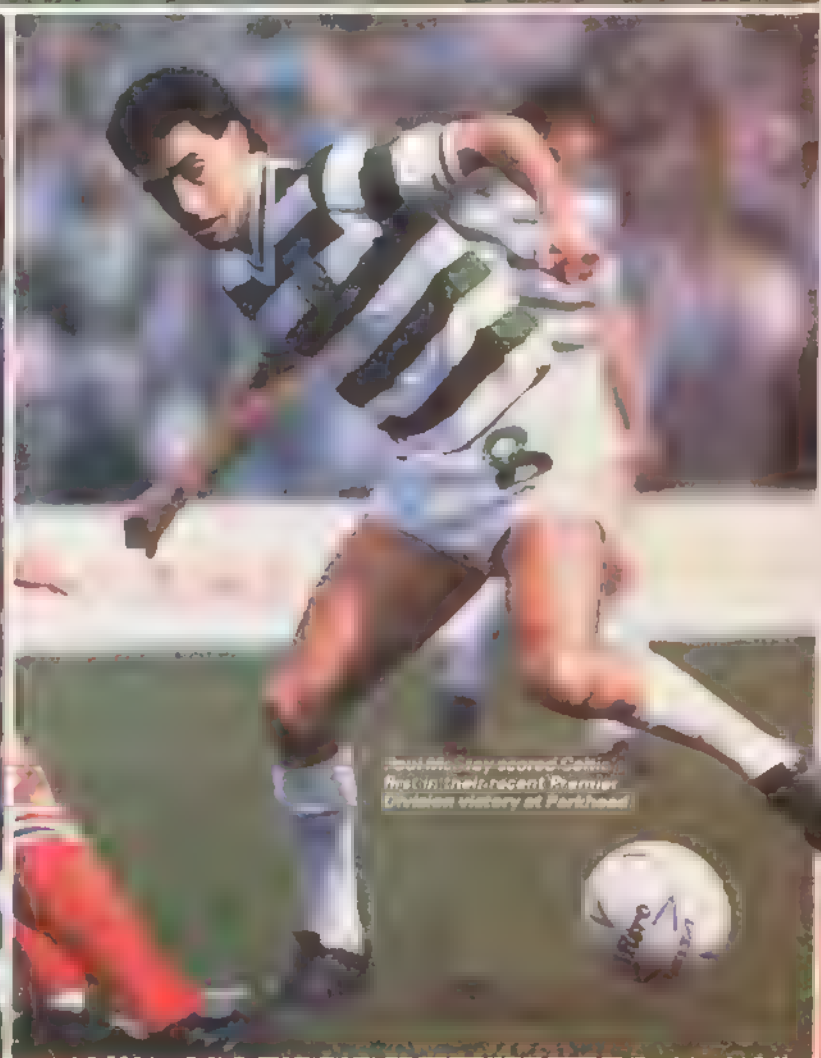




Celtic keeper Pat Bonner flats clear from Colin McAdam.



Peter McClay comes under pressure from Tom McAdam while David McPherson goes for a whack from Roy Aitken.



Peter McClay scored Celtic's first in their recent Premier Division victory at Parkhead.

SHOOT!

Quiz

Compiled by John Hamon

1 Scotland Under-21s were eliminated from the UEFA Championship on a 4-3 aggregate score. (a) They lost the second-leg 3-1 to which country, and (b) did Charlie Nicholas, of Arsenal, or Watford's Mo Johnston score for the Scots in that game?

2 Keith Burkinshaw, who will resign as manager of Tottenham at the end of this season, has won how many major honours in his eight years in charge?

3 Celtic gained revenge for their Scottish League Cup Final defeat by Rangers in a Premier Division game just eight days later. They beat their old enemy 1-0, 2-0 or 3-0 at Parkhead or Ibrox?

4 On the same evening, Aberdeen and Hearts drew 1-1 at Pittodrie. Ian Porteous was one of the scorers... but for which of the teams?

5 Tony McAndrew (Chelsea), David Armstrong (Southampton) and David Mills (Newcastle United) all began their League careers with which club?

IN THE SHADE

Solve these clues correctly and the shaded square of the frame will spell out the name of a Scottish club.

- 1 Power
- 2 Test
- 3 Hobo
- 4 Step
- 5 Upset
- 6 Malice
- 7 Bend
- 8 Swoon
- 9 Last
- 10 Double
- 11 Opponent
- 12 Class
- 13 Even
- 14 Censure
- 15 Earn
- 16 Ruse
- 17 Horrify
- 18 Bore



6 Name the player-manager who appeared for Northern Ireland in their recent 1-0 defeat by England in a British Championship game at Wembley.

7 (a) John Fashanu, (b) Wayne Biggins, (c) John Byrne and (d) Dave Caldwell have scored hat-tricks this season for which Third and Fourth Division clubs?

8 John Wark made his League debut for Liverpool, following his £450,000 transfer from Ipswich Town, against Watford last month (below). Which member of the successful Milk Cup-winning team did Wark replace?

9 West Ham's Trevor Brooking (above) appeared for England on 37, 47 or 57 occasions and against which country did he make his final appearance as a substitute?

10 Which player — David Dodds (Dundee United), Gordon Strachan (below, Aberdeen) or Murdo MacLeod (Celtic) — does not play regularly in midfield?



ANSWERS ON PAGE 37

ANDY Peake is back! The former England Under-21 midfielder player has fought a long, lonely battle to regain his place at Leicester and has come through with some magnificent goals.

He rocketed a brilliant 20 yarder against Notts County, then delivered two more — both candidates for goal of the season — in a 4-1 trouncing of Watford. In two matches, he had scored more goals than in his previous two seasons put together!

When he won his first England Under-21 cap, Peake looked set to race through and challenge for a place in the senior international squad — then disaster took a hand. An ankle ligament injury in a pre-season friendly against Plymouth virtually wiped out

'Frustrating'

"I came back for a couple of games near the end but I always knew that last season was going to be a write-off," he says. "This season, until I won back my place at Christmas, had been even more frustrating."

"I played four First Division matches at the start, two of them good and two bad, then I was dropped. So week after week, I was playing reserve team football

... and it drove me mad. "I trained harder than I've ever done and I worked myself until I dropped playing other sports such as squash. I simply wasn't prepared to settle for being out of the first team."

By Christmas time, he had forced his luck to change. Manager Gordon Milne recalled him to the side and told Peake to take it from there. It was up to him to

PEAKE FORM

More
goals than
ever
before!

re-establish himself

And that's exactly what Peake has achieved in 1984 and the fierce shooting, strong running demolition of Watford underlined just how well he is now playing

"Yes, I got more pleasure from that match than any other for a long time," he agrees

"I felt that in 90 minutes which, luckily, were on television, I proved that injury and the after-effects of inconsistent form were well behind me. Now I'm determined to take it on from there."

His first goal against Watford is one that will be seen time and again. He seized possession inside Leicester's half, powered 50 yards and then almost unhinged Watford's net with a right foot shot past Steve Sherwood

"There's nothing to compare with the sensation of scoring a goal like that," he reflects. "There is no such thing as a bad goal, of course, but I usually get tremendous satisfaction from mine because almost all of them come from long range

"I've only ever scored a couple from inside the opposing penalty-area and a full throttle shot at the end of a long run is visible evidence that my form and fitness have returned. It has taken me a long while to get going again: now I feel I've cracked it."

Peake badly missed Leicester's thrust for promotion last season and wanted even more to contribute to their First Division return. That is what he is doing at last and he praises the help from his team-mates at Filbert Street

'Spirits'

"Never at any time have I been treated as anything other than a member of the first team squad. Their attitude and encouragement lifted my spirits when the going was hard. My closest friend, Gary Lineker, has been quite tremendous."

"After training we would often go to play a few frames of snooker. He never stopped talking to convince me that a first team return was just around the corner."

Before the ankle injury Peake was being strongly tipped for full international honours. If his present form continues, the chance must arrive again.

"That would be the biggest boost of all. But I've got to go on rebuilding my first team career before there is any chance of that happening

"The base to international football comes from months of top form at club level... so I've still got a long way to go yet."

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Fulham's new 'star'

FIFTEEN-year-old Gerard Tucker from Bolton achieved his wildest dream when he joined his favourite club Fulham for two days. Gerard, a goalkeeper for the famous Bolton Lads Club, was first prize-winner in a competition organised by Shoot magazine and sponsored by Biactol. A confirmed Fulham fan since seeing them play in the 1975 F.A. Cup Final against West Ham, Gerard fulfilled every

schoolboy's aim and experienced the thrills of being a pro footballer. During his stay at Fulham, Gerard helped manager Malcolm Macdonald prepare for the match against Manchester City. On match day he was the team's mascot and took part in the warm-up. He then sat in the dugout with Malcolm Macdonald throughout the game, which Fulham won 5-0. A visit Gerard will never forget



KEVIN KEEGAN

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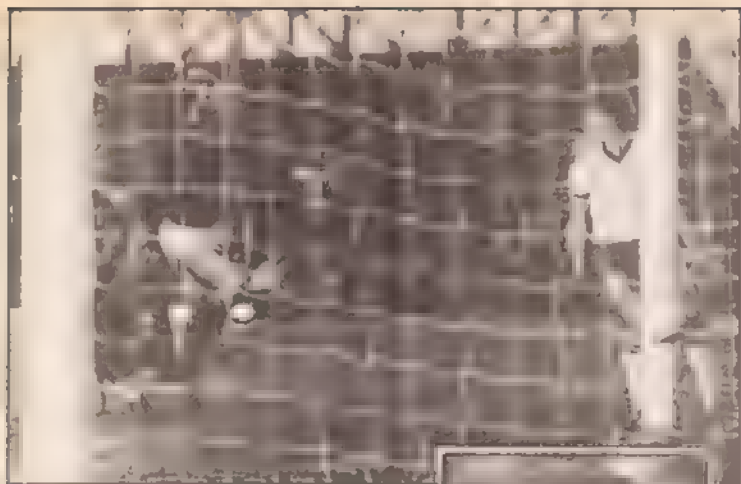
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WALKER THE CORKER



WALKER McCall was once rejected by his manager Archie Knox

Now Knox rates the much-travelled striker as one of the best marksmen in the business!

When Knox was assistant manager of Aberdeen he tipped off former Dundee boss Donald Mackay about McCall's ability

The sharpshooter who couldn't find a place in the Pittodrie attack with players such as Mark McGhee, Eric Black and John Hewitt about was allowed to move on and Mackay took the word of Knox and signed the player earlier this season

Now Mackay has left Dens Park, Knox has taken over as Dundee manager and he's delighted at the way things have worked out

When McCall rattled two shots past Celtic goalkeeper Pat Bonner in a sensational 3-2 League win recently he was scoring his 16th and 17th goals of the season

"Obviously I'm very happy at the way things have worked out," says Knox (pictured above). "Walker is a good, strong penalty-box player, but he couldn't get a run at Aberdeen because of all the other front players."

"I was convinced he could do a good job in the Premier Division and, thankfully, I've been proved right!"

McCall, who has had spells with Ayr United and St. Johnstone as well as a stint in Hong Kong, teams up splendidly with fellow-striker Iain Ferguson

"When I returned from Hong Kong I went back to Pittodrie to train with the Aberdeen lads but deep down I always knew I wasn't going to figure in Alex Ferguson's first team plans

'Solution'

"A move to a new club seemed to be the only solution, so when the opportunity to join Dundee arose I didn't hesitate," says Walker

"I knew I would suit their style and it's a pleasure to play alongside such accomplished players

"We've taken a few knocks this season, but we've been a better team than a lot of results may have indicated

"Reaching the Scottish Cup Semi-Finals made people sit up and take notice. Now we've got to take it from there."

A good bet for the TOP TEN. But they're still GLUMbarton

RUBBING shoulders with Scotland's soccer elite next season in the Premier Division could be the team nobody seems to love — Dumbarton!

The Boghead side are looking a good bet for promotion, but if they reach the top flight then what a stark comparison they will make with the big boys.

For while teams like Celtic and Rangers are followed by thousands of supporters every week, Dumbarton can only count on a few hundred watching them.

The First Division promotion pace-setters attract on average 500 fans for home games. Despite their good run this season the club admit they are at a loss as to how to lure the local public back through the turnstiles

Farcical

What makes their situation even more farcical is that while their push to join the likes of the Old Firm is seen only by a devoted few, bus loads of supporters leave Dumbarton every week to watch either Celtic or Rangers.

"We've tried everything to get the fans back to Dumbarton," said long-suffering director Alex Wright, "but it makes no difference how well we do"

Wright thinks the club will survive financially if they get to the Premier Division because "We do our sums

"We have to. There is no way we could live on the money we get through the gate. That's not nearly enough to make ends meet. However, next term we will have the Old Firm here four times, and Hearts carry a good away support as well, so that should bring in some good revenue."

So how have a club who lose £70,000 a year before they kick a ball still managed to come up with a team good enough to get into Scotland's top division?

Ian Wallace was sold to Coventry, before his £1 million

transfer took him to Nottingham Forest. Dumbarton also sold striker Graham Sharp (below) to Everton, while Celtic gave them £100,000 for Murdo MacLeod.

John Donnelly was exported to Leeds United. The list is endless.

But the club, which was one of the dominant forces in Scottish football at the turn of the century, have never been short of ambition. They even tried to sign Johan Cruyff!

The Dutchman lost interest when he heard that Dumbarton were not in Scotland's top division. Maybe if the local public had showed a little more interest in their team then Cruyff might have been parading his skills at Boghead



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This week's Star Letter and £10 winner comes from John Kidd of York Road, Stevenage in Herts. He writes

Stop knocking Keegan

Before he retires at the end of the season, would it be possible for you to pay just one compliment to Kevin Keegan? Ever since he signed for Newcastle you have continually criticised him.



I've got nothing against Kevin, despite what some people might think. I've never denied he's a very good player who has been a credit to the game. He's also conducted himself superbly under conditions which many players wouldn't have been able to handle. But I can't accept that he's one of the greatest players of all time, and nor can I accept his claims that he is playing just for the fans. Everyone knows he's earned an absolute fortune as a soccer mercenary, so why not admit it? I've nothing against earning a good wage, but at least be open about it.



Jack's back

Even if he's only at Middlesbrough until the end of the season, I'm sure you'd join me in welcoming big Jack Charlton back into Football League management.

VICTOR BUTCHERS,
STONE, KENT



I'm sure all of England's wildlife are delighted to see Big Jack putting away his gun and his fishing rod! Jack knows he can get a job whenever he wants, so he tends to take a detached view of the game. But it's nice to see him back and I hope he enjoys himself enough at Ayresome Park to take the job on permanently.

Time-waster

Why have the League introduced the Associate Members Cup when it's clear the majority of Third and Fourth Division clubs don't want to compete? It seems a complete waste of time and effort.

PETER JAMES
READING, BERKS



It certainly looks that way, particularly when you look at the pitiful attendances these games have attracted. But I suspect it will be around until a few Third and Fourth Division clubs fold — which might not be too far away.

Forced out

I don't believe Keith Burkinshaw is willingly resigning as Spurs boss. He is clearly being forced out because of his row with Steve Archibald.

TONY HORRELL,
HARROW, MIDDLESEX



A couple of weeks ago I said I couldn't see Keith going, but it's obvious the new board at White Hart Lane have new ideas about how the club should be run. As Keith is one of the old school of managers with old values, it would appear they clashed somewhere along the way. I have great respect for the guy and am pleased to see him going like a gentleman.



Come back, Liam

I don't care which current Football League players go to Italy in the summer so long as we get Liam Brady back. Sadly, it looks as though one of the finest players of recent years is going to stay on the Continent.

GAVIN LAWLEY,
KIDDERMINSTER, BERKS



Most of our exiles usually come back at some time, but if Liam decides to stay in Italy good luck to him. Being a midfield player, he doesn't face the demands placed on strikers like Luther Blissett and Trevor Francis. He has a lovely way of life, lots of money and professional satisfaction. I can't see him coming back.

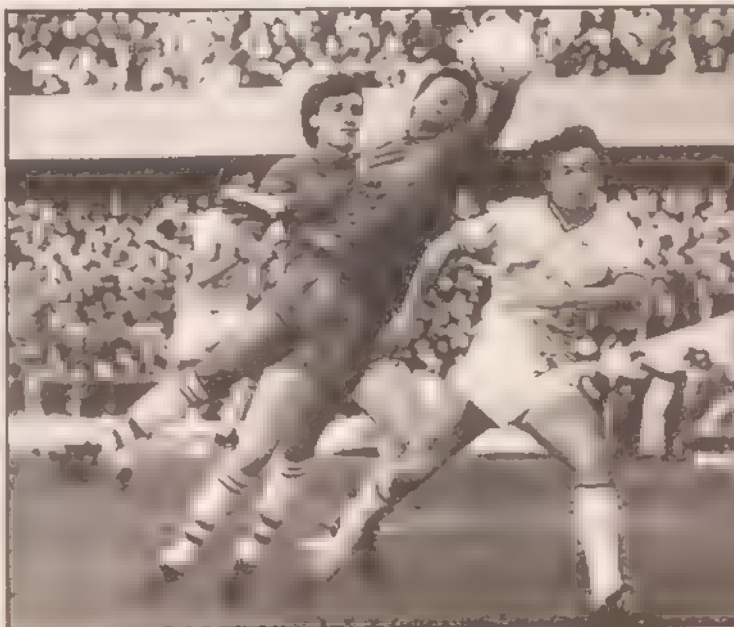
Chelsea's fight

As Chelsea look a fairly safe bet for promotion, how do you think they'll fare in the First Division next season?

T. CARRINGTON,
SLOUGH, BERKS



Like most promoted clubs, Chelsea (below) will find it tough in their first season back. But with John Hollins in their ranks, they won't go up believing they're going to win the Championship. They're a young side and, with all respect, they don't have too many outstanding names in the team. They won't find it easy, but I think they're good enough to stay up as long as they don't lose their first games and let their confidence drop.



Make 'em suffer

I've come up with the perfect cure for soccer hooliganism. All offenders should be rounded up and made to watch Sunderland playing Stoke!

ANON

CALIFORNIA, USA



I like it! But judging by your address, at least you don't have to watch them. Sunderland and Stoke aren't the only teams though. I have this recurring nightmare that I'm watching Birmingham v Notts County and Ron Saunders won't let me out of the ground at half-time! Only joking, Ron.

Cheers, Ken

I'm delighted Kenny Dalglish has signed a new contract with Liverpool. By staying at Anfield, Kenny has guaranteed himself plenty more medals before he finally retires.

MARK WHEATON

BIDDENDEN, KENT



I think it's smashing that one of Britain's finest players looks certain to end his top professional career with Britain's finest club. Kenny's decision to sign a new contract is great for Liverpool and their fans.

Kennedy's cap

I've always rated Alan Kennedy as the best uncapped player around, so was delighted to see him called up for England's recent game against Northern Ireland.

MARTIN DALES

MIDDLESBROUGH



I was talking to Alan after that 1-0 win and he told me how excited he was throughout the game. It's nice to know that such an experienced old pro can still get that feeling about playing for his country. He may not win that many England caps, but at least he'll always have something to look back on with pride when he eventually retires.

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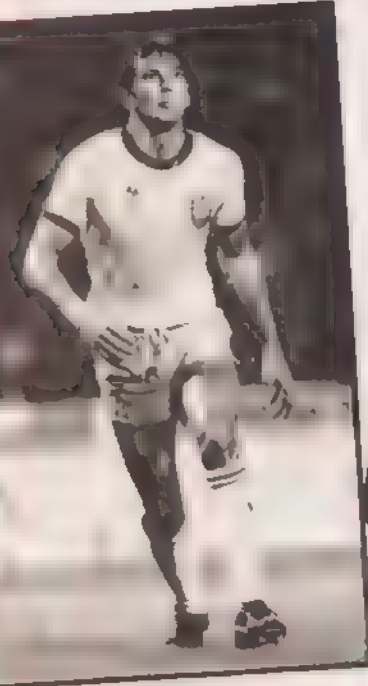
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AUSTRALIA have gained the advantage of staging the re-run series of Oceania Group qualifying ties for the 1986 World Cup Finals.

The first series of games, involving Australia, New Zealand, Israel and Taiwan, will be in New Zealand during the first weeks of October. The return ties, later in the month, will be in Australia.

The winner of the Oceania Group will then play one of the seven European groups for a place in the Mexico Finals.



EDER, already in trouble with FIFA for playing in an unauthorised tour, is finding it tougher than he thought to jump on the big-money bandwagon.

So far nobody has come in for the Brazilian international with the famous thundering shot and his club, Atletico Mineiro, have offered him a new contract worth £4,800 per month.

But Eder, currently serving a three-month suspended prison sentence for assault, is demanding £35,000 per month and is now on the transfer list.

YOUTH FURY

FIFA have angered Europe's leading football nations by switching the dates of next year's World Youth Championship from June to October.

The switch just happens to coincide with the height of the domestic season throughout Europe, making it virtually impossible for the very best youngsters to be in Chile for the tournament.

Scotland's highly successful youth team manager Andy Roxburgh (above) sums up the feeling of many of his European counterparts when he says: "You are tempted to ask what is the point of it all."

MARIO Zagalo is still stunned by Saudi Arabia's decision to sack him as their national coach.

Zagalo, who won World Cup win-

Italy face Euro showdown

THE Common Market is preparing for a showdown with the Italian F.A. that could send shock-waves throughout the rest of the European community's member nations.

The EEC is insisting that the Italian's proposed summer ban on foreign imports is illegal.

And if Italy go ahead with their decision to stop foreign players from working inside their borders for the next two years, the EEC will take them to the European Court of Justice.

The EEC Commission is determined to ensure that

footballers, as well as other workers, have the freedom to work in the Common Market country of their choice ... and this could cause all sorts of problems in

The British Government has turned down a host of applications to register foreign players on the grounds that they would be taking work away from equally talented professionals born in this country.

But if the EEC win their case for footballers from within the Market, then the structure of the English game could change overnight.



ITALY and West Germany will "replay" their 1982 World Cup Final as part of the celebrations for FIFA's Jubilee. And more than 20 television stations have shown an interest in covering the match, scheduled for May 22 in Zurich.



West Germany and Italy are playing a World Cup re-match.



"By the time of the Finals in October 1985, most of my players will be regular first team players with their clubs and the chances of them being released for a month at that time of the season are virtually zero."

ners' medals with Brazil in 1958 and 1962 and who coached them to glory in 1970, is replaced by little known Middle East coach Khalil Zahedi.

Rocked by Socrates

SOCRATES has rocked Brazilian football by agreeing to join Inter-Milan, providing they agree to three conditions!

(a) The Brazilian international insists he will be allowed to smoke 20 cigarettes a day. (b) He will drink beer with his meals. (c) He will have total freedom of speech.

Inter, who have just completed the signing

of West German captain Karl-Heinz Rummenigge from Bayern Munich, are prepared to give Socrates a signing on fee of two million dollars plus a two-year contract instead of the usual three-year deal.

Socrates, 30, insists he can play at the top for years to come and said "The modern footballer uses his brain rather than physical strength. There is no reason why I cannot continue as I am until I decide to retire."

Diego demand

ARGENTINOS Juniors have lost all patience with Barcelona and now demand the £360,000 owed for Diego Maradona.

The original deal included a clause

whereby the two clubs would meet in a series of seven friendly fixtures, staged on tour in Mexico and the United States, with Juniors guaranteed £50,000 from each game.

But every suggested date has been turned down by Barcelona as "inconvenient" and sparks are about to fly across the Atlantic.

They tell me...

● Belgium team manager Guy Thys (right) has asked his F.A. to insist that police provide him with a full list of players being investigated in the current bribes scandal who could face arrest or suspension. He doesn't want half his international squad marched away in handcuffs during the European Championship.

● Thousands of Danes are clamouring for tickets to watch their country play in the European Championship in France. But very few of them seem bothered to go and watch the domestic game in Denmark. The opening day of the Danish First Division was a disaster. One Cup game was watched by only 163 fans and the biggest crowd was 1,757 at Lyngby.

● Fernando Morena is back in training having recovered from the horrific triple leg fracture suffered in the Uruguay v Venezuela South American Championship match. The legendary Uruguayan striker, however, has started his return to the



headlines with a financial row with Penarol, who still owe him £140,000 in salary and bonuses.

● Roger Rocher, former president of St. Etienne, is free again after four months in jail following his alleged involvement in the French slush-money scandal.

Flashback MAGIC

DATE: Saturday, April 8, 1978
MATCH: F.A. Cup Semi-Final
RESULT: Ipswich 3 WBA 1
VENUE: Highbury



...is Brian Talbot (white shirt, on goal)
...keeper Tony Godden with a...
...Portman Road club on the way to
...the first and only time in their history. Further...

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NOTTS COUNTY



CLUB SPOTLIGHT

REGARDLESS of what the immediate future holds for Notts County, they are entitled to feel they proved their critics wrong.

Many of soccer's top names predicted they had no chance of competing on level terms with the elite on average home gates of less than 10,000.

But County have survived in the First Division for three seasons and are fighting for a fourth term. They are going all-out in their big battle to avoid relegation.

Although County did reach the Quarter-Finals of the F.A. Cup for the first time in 29 years, the majority of this season has been a depressing struggle for them.

And a mood of anti-climax is inevitable at Meadow Lane because Notts set out in August convinced that they were ready to mount a challenge for honours.

Despite the understandable upheaval caused by losing talented team manager Howard Wilkinson to Sheffield Wednesday, his replacement Larry Lloyd appeared to have arrived on the scene with perfect timing.

After finishing 15th in the previous two seasons, County felt they had become established in the top flight and the signing of experienced Northern Ireland captain Martin O'Neill and Eire

John Chiedozie fends off Arsenal's Stewart Robson.



Fighting for a 'fourth'

international goalkeeper Seamus McDonagh was seen as significant.

Certainly O'Neill, who won virtually every available honour during his spell with Forest, was optimistic of adding to his medal collection when he returned to Nottingham.

He said at the time: "The best of Notts County is yet to come and it strikes me that the careers of several players are about to take off."

"My aim is to help them find the consistency that was lacking during their first two years in the First Division and if that happens, we have a realistic chance to challenge for a place in Europe."

Attention

O'Neill (left) was right about the careers of certain players taking off and in particular, free-scoring Trevor Christie and the speedy John Chiedozie have been the focus of attention for many top clubs this season.

But those European hopes died in October when Notts equalled their club record with a disastrous run of seven consecutive League defeats.

"That's been the root of our problem," says O'Neill. "It sapped our confidence and since then, points have been so vital that every time we've gone on to the pitch, it's been a pressure situation."

But regardless of whether County win their relegation battle, at least the club who were members of the Fourth Division 14 years ago have tasted life at the top... and given hope to football's minnows.

It's Amazing

● Notts County are the oldest existing football club in the world. They were formed in Nottingham's Lion Hotel in 1862 and the 'County' part of their title indicates their connection with the County Cricket Club. Many of the great old-time Notts cricketers — like Richard Dainton, George Parr and William Gunn — also played football for County, who were founder members of the Football League in 1877-78.

● There was an amazing incident in the last minute of the F.A. Cup

Quarter-Final tie between County and Stoke at Trent Bridge in 1891 that led to the introduction of penalties. County were leading 1-0 when the referee awarded Stoke a free-kick right on the County goal-line. Every Notts player crammed into the goal and they managed to scramble the ball away. From the following season, penalties were awarded for fouls in

what became known as the penalty-area.

● County finished their League match against Preston with only five players on 12 December, 1891. One player had been sent-off and five others had walked off because of the appalling wintry weather conditions. Preston won 6-0.

● There's a street in Nottingham named after former County goalkeeper Albert Iremonger, who stood 6ft 6ins and was one of the

game's greatest characters. He once took a penalty and hit the bar and in the chase back to his goal managed to kick the ball into his own net!

● Three County players — Kevin Randall, Don Masson and Brian Stubbs — all missed with the same penalty kick in a Second Division game against Portsmouth at Fratton Park on 22 September, 1973. The first two kicks had to be retaken because of encroachment by Portsmouth players and the third kick was saved. County won 2-1.

I'M often asked the secret of Dundee United's success — and it never takes me long to supply the answer.

I think people are genuinely surprised at what we've achieved at Tannadice over the years but they tend to look far deeper than is really necessary to pinpoint the main reason.

Actually, it's very simple and straightforward. We owe a large chunk of our success to the fact that we all get on as well together off the park as we do on it.

When our daily training session at Tannadice is over, for example, we don't just disperse in a variety of different directions. It's more our style to play golf or snooker together.

We only have a small squad of senior professionals at United, around 13 to be exact — for us a lucky number — with several younger lads waiting in the wings who are still short on experience.

Whereas some clubs may have a nucleus of three or four real top-class players, at Tannadice we don't kid ourselves that any one member of the squad is any more

Here I am in action against Celtic, just managing to avoid a tackle from Tom McAdam



Lucky 13

valuable than another.

In all honesty I would say we're a group of good professionals with a 100 per cent work rate and just above average in ability. And that goes a long way towards explaining the success we've enjoyed in recent years.

The reason we don't have as big and experienced a squad as some clubs is mainly due to lack of cash. We don't have the crowd potential of Rangers, Celtic and Aberdeen, for example, so the manager's hands are tied when it comes to entering the transfer market.

Mind you, the fact that Mr. McLean hasn't had to spend a lot of money constructing the present squad is a tribute to the club's youth policy.

Most of the lads, myself included, have been brought up

through the ranks and only Eamonn Bannon, who came from Chelsea in 1979, cost a six-figure fee.

I mentioned earlier how friendly the United players are away from the club and this was illustrated recently when half a dozen of us, with our wives, attended the Dionne Warwick concert in Edinburgh and enjoyed a meal afterwards.

This typifies the tremendous team spirit at the club. The players enjoy each other's company and there are no cliques.

It follows, naturally, that when we go out to play a game we're all fighting for each other and I'm hoping this will stand us in good stead for what looks like being an exciting last lap of the season.



Eamonn Bannon

Going into April we still had a dozen League fixtures to complete and while these games are going to stretch our resources to the limit, at least it enhances our title ambition because there are so many points at stake.

One of the drawbacks of such a demanding programme, however, is that it restricts the time in which you have to prepare for European ties and the build-up to our two games against Roma was far from ideal.

Our opponents were able to scrap their League fixtures to give themselves a blank weekend before tackling us. But there was no such luxury for United and we all risked picking up the type of injury that would have ruled us out.

By the time you read this column our European Cup fate will be known and I can only hope we'll be back in Rome for the Final.

Paul Sturrock

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TIPS FROM THE TOP

BY PAUL TREVILLION

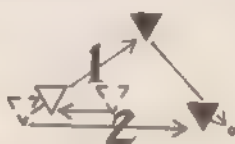
JOHN WARK Liverpool and Scotland

TARGET AREA

Wark is rarely guilty of standing too close to a teammate when a centre is on. This way he simplifies the problem for the player centring the ball. Instead of him having to land the ball in a target area of some six feet, he can float the ball into a space twice that area for the forward in the most favourable position to run on and meet.

SIDE BY SIDE

There is no better exponent of the wall pass than John Wark and his secret is shown in our diagram. At all times Wark commits the defender closest to him before releasing the initial pass. This enables him to start off level with the defender — who has the disadvantage of having to turn — when he moves to pick up the return pass.



FOOT SIGNAL

When moving at top speed Wark is very skilled at controlling the ball with the outside of his foot. The ball controlled with the inside of the foot is directed towards the defender, the ball controlled with the outside of the foot is directed away from him.



INVISIBLE INTERCEPTIONS

John Wark makes many interceptions during a match which are rarely seen by the fans. This is because he never touches the ball. Wark, being a superb reader of the game, senses danger before it develops and is in position to cut off the pass. The player on the ball is forced to play a negative pass and Wark has made another 'technical' interception.



ALL THE Sports ALL THE Stars

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says Alan Minter

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NO regrets — but Aston Villa's midfield player Steve McMahon admits: "Sometimes I go to bed at nights thinking about playing in Cup Finals at Wembley, F.A. Cup Semi-Finals, winning League Championship medals and enjoying campaigns in Europe."

It was decision time for McMahon last summer. If he had stayed at Everton, he would now have been in the thick of two enthralling Cup runs — but, long before, his mind was made up to move on.

It was then a choice between Liverpool or Villa. If he had chosen Liverpool, he would have been in the Milk Cup Final and roaring into the home straight of the Championship race — plus a European Cup challenge.

He settled on Villa anticipating a bid for every honour in sight, but it hasn't worked out that way. Villa's

"It is team success, not personal performances that count. I would have far preferred to have a terrible game but see Villa finish on top. The best of all worlds for any player is to do well in a winning team."

"That is what I am still convinced will happen to me and Villa. It is only human nature to look over your shoulder at what-might-have-been but, as a realistic and ambitious professional, I am more concerned with what lies ahead."

"Anyway, it is dangerous to dwell on a 'where could I be now'

theme. I signed for Villa and nothing can be changed around to alter that; nor would I want it to."

"Every time I go out with the team, I look around at all the class players and wonder 'Where is the excitement coming from today?' On paper, we have one of the outstanding squads in football. Okay, so teams win nothing on

paper, but nothing shakes my conviction that the ability is there right through the side."

"Mark Walters possesses some of the most gifted attacking talent anywhere in football; Paul Rideout is a fast developing striker of England potential; Nigel Spink must feature in Bobby Robson's future planning."

"They are just some of the younger players while there are also those of proven record such as Peter Withe and Dennis Mortimer."

"So why haven't we won the things that so many predicted for us? On one hand, young players will invariably shine excitingly and then fade before coming through with consistent quality displays."

"On the other hand, we have been disappointed by injuries. The very worst of them, of course, has been to Gordon Cowans. I had been looking forward to a season of playing with him in a

midfield partnership and his absence has been almost as disappointing for us and the supporters as it has been for Gordon himself."

"Yet Dennis

Mortimer has never stopped in his efforts and Alan Curbishley is great to play with despite the stick that he takes from sections of the crowd."

"I find criticism of his style hard to understand. His touch on the ball is brilliant and he is

both composed and creative. Maybe some of Alan's critics moan because he came from Birmingham City. If so, that's unfair."

Villa manager Tony Barton invested £300,000 in the aggression, running and Merseyside-honed competitive instinct of McMahon. The livewire England Under-21 international has repaid him by playing the only way he knows — to the limits of his skill and stamina.

"I've settled down in the side and, if I'm bothered because we don't look like winning anything, it is up to me to work even harder to help Villa towards success next season," he responds.

"I know that Villa are going to come good; they have too many good players to do anything else. I made my decision and I'm going to give everything to make it pay off."

McMahon turned down Liverpool for Villa, but NO REGRETS

season has been a struggle and their best shot at success came in the Milk Cup. That failed when they lost to Everton in the Semi-Finals!

McMahon played two tremendous matches against his former club, particularly in the second-leg at Villa Park, and he says: "Yes, that was one of my best individual performances. But so what?"

Mark Walters torments Watford with a typical twisting, turning run



IT HAPPENED THIS WEEK

April 21, 1970: Bobby Charlton makes his 100th appearance for England and celebrates with a goal, his 48th in such matches, against Northern Ireland

April 22, 1944: The record Wartime crowd for any match in Britain — 133,000 to see Scotland beat England 3-2 at Hampden Park.

April 22, 1959: Crystal Palace goalkeeper Vic Rouse, appearing for Wales v. Northern Ireland at Belfast, becomes the first Fourth Division club player to appear in a full international.

April 24, 1976: Francis Lee, contributing to Derby County's 6-2 win at Ipswich, scores twice in the final Football League match of his career

April 24, 1976: Four penalty-kicks, all converted, in the same match. Alan Buckley scores first from one for Walsall and then Trevor Anderson scores a penalty-kick hat-trick for Swindon Town.

April 25, 1964: Jim Fryatt playing for Bradford Park Avenue v. Tranmere Rovers scores what is claimed to be the fastest-ever Football League goal — four seconds after the kick-off

April 25, 1981: Visiting Bury, Stockport County find several snowbound players have been unable to reach the ground. They play the entire first-half with nine men, hold Bury, and, with a full side later, win by 1-0.

April 26, 1978: Mark Halsey (18) becomes the youngest player sent-off on his Football League debut match — with Norwich City in a 2-2 draw at Newcastle.

April 27, 1966: Everton are fined £2,000 for fielding an entire reserve team in a League game against Leeds United a week before meeting Manchester United in an F.A. Cup Semi-Final.

April 27, 1977: West Brom's Laurie Cunningham, appearing in an Under-21 Bramall Lane match against Scotland Under-21, becomes the first black player to play for England in an international match.



I LIKED the reason given by Ipswich striker Eric Gates for taking over as the team's penalty taker following the sale of John Wark to Liverpool.

"Over the years I gained most of the penalties that Wark converted, so I thought it was about time I started taking them as well," explained Eric.

But he'll have to go some to beat his former colleague's spot-kick achievements. John scored 38 goals out of a possible 43, an Ipswich record.

Transfer tourists

STIRLING ALBION are dipping into the transfer money received from Celtic and Doncaster Rovers for youngsters John Colquhoun and John Philiben to take their players on an end-of-season trip to Spain.

The club freely admit the trip would be a non-starter without the transfer cash — so both players are being invited along . . . providing their new clubs agree!

BAILEY'S TOUCHING MOMENT

MILLIONS of TV viewers saw Everton full-back John Bailey touch the Milk Cup as he collected his loser's medal following the 1-0 defeat by Liverpool in the replayed Final at Maine Road. Explained Bailey: "I couldn't resist one little touch, and as I did so I just said 'see you again'."

"I know Liverpool now keep that particular trophy, but we'll be going flat out for the new one next season."

Bailey also admits he was the man responsible for causing Howard Kendall's blushes when a scantily clad Kissogram girl accosted the Everton manager on the way to Wembley.

"It was just a bit of a giggle and a good way to relieve the tension before the Final," Bailey explains.



BY MARK IRWIN

WOLVES, having failed with a £100,000 bid for Chester's Welsh Under-21 striker Andy Holden shortly before the transfer deadline date, are preparing to make an improved offer at the end of the season.

BELT UP! That's the advice Aberdeen striker Mark McGhee has given himself.

McGhee's first suspension in two years as a professional cost him a place in the second leg of the League Cup Semi-Final against Celtic, a game The Dons lost 1-0.

He says: "Most of my bookings have been for dissent and that's really stupid. In future I'll have to learn to keep my mouth shut!"



QUIZ ANSWERS:

QUIZ 1 (a) Yugoslavia, (b) Johnston. 2. He won the F.A. Cup twice 3. 3-0 at Parkhead 4. Aberdeen. 5. Middlesbrough 6. Baillmann's keeper Jim Platt 7. in Lincoln 8. Burnley 9. York City 10. Mansfield 11. Craig Johnston. 12. 47. His final game was against Spain. 13. Dodds.

IN THE SHADE 1. Midget 2. Tria 3. Tramp 4. Stair 5. Split 6. Spruce 7. Stoop 8. Faint 9. Fina 10. Twice 11. Royal 12. Grade 13. Love 14. Blame 15. Mar 16. Trick 17. Apple 18. Drill. TEAM: Hamilton Academical.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE 1. Fence different 2. Number on fence different 3. TV aerial missing 4. Bridge been added to middle dummy 5. Right hand dummy's expression changed 6. Goalkeeper's shorts different 7. Piece of wood missing from goalpost 8. Trainer's hat different 9. Player's sock altered 10. Ball missing.

CROSSWORD ACROSS (1) Back (4) Match (10) Revue (11) Waface (12) Anderson (13) Glue (15) Camber (17) Chased (19) Ours (20) Benjamin (23) Gunners (24) Stoke (25) Irwin (26) Under. DOWN (2) Lived (3) Cherries (5) Ally (6) Charles (7) Brian Clough (8) Ewood (9) Peter Daniel (14) Thijssen (16) Mariner (18) Welsh (21) Moore (22) Remi.

Costly farewell

DAVE Bambers last game for Coventry City cost The Sky Blues £25,000.

Bambers appearance in a 2-1 defeat at Notts County was his 20th since moving to Highfield Road — and meant that Coventry had to pay an extra £25,000 to his former club Burslem to bring the total fee-up to £75,000.

But four days later he was sold to Third Division Walsall for just £50,000.

There were a few red faces at the Indoor Soccer Six tournament at Birmingham's NEC the other week. Spectators were told by a loud-speaker announcement that Everton were leading Liverpool 3-0 in the fifth Cup Final replay at Maine Road, then later informed that Liverpool had won 1-0!

CHAMPION UNITED

It is 17 years since Manchester United last won the League Championship. Now a member of that 1967 team is tipping them to win the title again this season.

Former Old Trafford full-back Tony Dunne says: "United have the best squad of players in the country and even Liverpool cannot compare with their midfield."

"With Ray Wilkins (right), now fulfilling his early promise, he joins Arnold Muhren and Bryan Robson as the classiest midfield in Britain. They are a superb blend and a match for any team in the world."

The former Republic of Ireland international prefers Arthur Graham to Remi Moses as the fourth midfield man and continues: "United now look capable of scoring three or four against any team at Old Trafford."

"If they can just be a little more solid working for each other, the Championship is theirs for the taking."

Fulham fight the wage war

FULHAM have got no intention of falling into the trap that has brought famous clubs like Ipswich to the brink of financial ruin.

They will risk losing star assets like Gordon Davies and Tony Gale rather than meet wage demands they cannot afford.

The contracts of Gale and Davies (right) run out at the end of the season. And both have made it clear they will be on the move if Fulham don't come up with what they want.

"We have all seen what has happened to clubs who pay out money they have not got. We have no intention of doing that," says Fulham chairman Ernie Clay.

"For the sake of the future of this club we have got to stick to our guns over this issue."

"Gale and Davies are outstanding players who have done well for Fulham. But if they decide to move on because we are not offering them enough, that's the way it will have to be.

"We have offered them the best deal we possibly can. But we can't pay the wages some others can — and will not threaten our future by breaking the structure."



Everton have been monitoring the progress of Runcorn winger John Stringer, as have Bolton and Mansfield.

Dave's dilemma

David Langan is Ron Saunders' type of player. The Birmingham City defender keeps battling against the odds and in the present circumstances this is an admirable trait.

Saunders, however, will shortly have to decide whether as manager of Birmingham City he can offer Langan another contract.

The Irish international has recently resumed playing following another injury and is keen to re-establish himself in the first

But now it depends upon whether Langan can agree new terms.

It could transpire that he might want to find another club, but first of all he will have to convince everyone that he has fully recovered from his latest knee injury.

Wolves might be fighting at the foot of the First Division, but their disciplinary record is outstanding.

Alan Dodd was their first player to be suspended all season when he missed their clash with Sunderland — and by the end of March they had only one booking for dissent between the whole first team squad all season.

Soccer scouts are flocking to see the youngster already being hailed as "the new Pat Jennings."

He is Northern Ireland Under-13 schoolboy international goalkeeper Alan McVeigh, who comes from the same South Down region as Jennings.

"The boy is exceptional for his age. He certainly looks a big-time star in the making," confirmed one top talent spotter.

Honoured

The Yugoslavian capital city of Belgrade is to consider naming a street after Manchester United as a tribute to the famous Busby Babes side decimated in the 1958 Munich air crash.

United were on their way home from Belgrade when the plane crashed. Their final game was a 3-3 draw with Red Star in the Quarter-Finals of the European Cup.



MALPAS ON THE MOVE



Dundee United defender Maurice Malpas believes in keeping himself active — but even he could surpass himself in a hectic ten-day period at the close of the season.

He sits his final exams at the end of an electronics and electrical engineering course at Dundee Tech — and ambitious Maurice has an honours degree in his sights.

Then, a few days later, the 21-year-old player hopes to be in action for United in the European Cup Final on May 30. And to crown it all, he is due to be married on Saturday, June 2.

Some certainly do like it hot!

FOOTBALL FUNNIES



"Oh no, not his banana shot"



"I told you not to wear your ref's
cousin"



"Give me my notebook back or I'll send you off."



"You're playing so badly you must dribble the ball through that lot"

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BRYAN ROBSON *His fear about Wales*

KEVIN KEEGAN'S FINAL FLING

How he plans to spend the last month of his amazing career.



GORDON McQUEEN
'Man. United can be as good as Leeds!'

**TERRY FENWICK'S
FURY**

BRIAN CLOUGH

Burkinshaw's split
with Spurs —
'Players let him down!'



JOHN WARK

Why he
doesn't want
to play against
Ipswich.

'We'll murder England again' —
Gordon Davies

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DAVE Webb plans to
steer Torquay United
into uncharted territory.

The 37-year-old Webb is the
12th man at the helm of
Fourth Division Torquay since
the War. He is plotting a five-
year course that he hopes will
take them into the Second Di-
vision for the first time in their
57-year League history.

"It's my intention to put
this club on the map," says
the chirpy East Londoner of a
Devon town better known for
sandy beaches than for foot-
ball.

"I'll deserve a kick up the
backside if I can't get them
into the Third Division within



"It wasn't a very pleasant
task," he admits, "but I
couldn't take any short cuts."

Webb's playing career
spanned seven League clubs,
but he will be most remem-
bered for his six-year spell at
Chelsea, during which he
scored the goal that won
them the F.A. Cup in 1970 in a
thrilling two-match battle
with Leeds.

He claims there has been a
tendency to look for excuses
to explain Torquay's low
gates.

"Plymouth have proved
there are football fans down
here with several tremendous
gates in the last couple of

Webb cuts for promotion thrust

the next three years, and if I
don't do it, I'll get someone in
who can."

Webb's position at the club
allows him to do just that, for
his title of 'managing director-
coach' means that he is in
charge of everything from
coaching the players to mak-
ing sure the financial books
are in order.

The club is losing money
and struggling to survive on
gates that have plunged be-

low the 2,000 mark.

"One of my first jobs was to
cut our spending. The simple
fact is that we are drawing
only half the number of spec-
tators we need to pay our
liabilities and overheads."

After a morning with the
club's auditors shortly after
taking the job, Webb found he
had no option other than to
put five of the club's experi-
enced professionals on the
transfer list.

years. If we play attractive
football they'll come to Plain-
moor."

Yet Webb is adamant. "I
want footballers who feel
they are good enough to play
for Liverpool and Manchester
United. It will be the players
with ambition that will get
into my team.

"Mind you, it will be up to
me to convince them to stay
at Torquay if the bigger clubs
start looking at them!"

LIVERPOOL made me the happiest man in football recently... they asked me to stay at Anfield!

I've been asked countless times if I wanted to play abroad, if I would go back to Scotland, if I would join another First Division club — and oddly enough only a handful of people considered the possibility that I might not want to go anywhere.

But that is exactly the case. My contract was about to end and I had a number of quiet chats with club officials during the season. It was low-key stuff, no headlines, no fuss.

I read the stories that suggested all the places I could go, including Newcastle as Kevin Keegan's successor. But I knew what I wanted, and when Liverpool said they wanted me to sign a new contract I was delighted.

STAR WRITER

KENNY DALGLISH

Naturally, if the club had decided that it was time for us to part company, I would have gone home, discussed it with my wife Marina and prepared to begin a new career.

I would have gone with regret, but I know it would have been all handled in a professional and gentlemanly manner — like everything at Anfield.

Happily I am carrying on my career as a Liverpool player.

The question I am now asked is "Why?" People seem astonished that at 33 I have not opted for one last big pay-day with another club or sought a "fresh challenge."

Why I'm staying at Anfield

I know that a number of top players are being tipped to leave England at the end of this season. If they do, good luck to them. I believe people should always do what they believe is right for them.

But the truth is, the whole situation would not be right for me, not for my wife and three children.

We are happy in our Southport home, we are settled, we have good friends and our children are finding their feet at school, making friends and we do not want to unsettle them.

It might be marvellous to play in Italy, Germany or Spain. But then what is wrong with playing in Britain?

Successful

Where would I find a bigger club than Liverpool, a more successful club than Liverpool or a better-run club than Liverpool?

And there is more to life than money. It's important, very important. Let's not be silly about this. But even more important is being happy, settled, secure and confident.

As for the "fresh challenge" argument, every day at Anfield is just that. Everybody knows that you have to sustain standards or find yourself in the reserves. There are no two ways about that.

Liverpool have not won all their honours by making mistakes in selections.

If I am to stay in the first team I have to produce the goods on the pitch. And that is quite a challenge when you realise the standards we set ourselves.

So to whom it may concern, Kenny Dalglish is delighted to announce that he is proud to be staying with Liverpool!

Despite speculation in the media, I've no intention of going to Newcastle to take over from Kevin Keegan.

Kenny Dalglish



FOCUS

MICK HARFORD

Birmingham City

FULL NAME: Michael Harford.
BIRTHPLACE AND DATE: I was born in Sunderland on February 12, 1959.
HEIGHT AND WEIGHT: 6ft 2inches, 13stone 5lbs.
MARRIED: No.
HOME: A detached house in Solihull, on the border of Birmingham.
CAR: Renault Fuego.

PREVIOUS CLUBS: I started at Lincoln City, moved on to Newcastle and was at Bristol City when Birmingham signed me in March, 1982.

NICKNAME: Everyone at City calls me 'Jack' because they say I look like the actor Jack Palance.

TEAM YOU SUPPORTED AS A BOY: Sunderland.

FOOTBALL HERO OF CHILDHOOD: Bobby Charlton.

FAVOURITE CURRENT PLAYER: Liverpool's Kenny Dalglish. He has been brilliant for so many years and is still the best in the business.

MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: My debut for Birmingham against Brighton in March, 1982. We won 1-0 at St. Andrews and I scored the only goal.

BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Not



making a success of my stay with Newcastle. Being born in the North-East, I wanted to be a hit up there, but I only played in 19 games before going to Bristol City.

SUPERSTITIONS: I don't have any.

FOOTBALL HERO OF CHILDHOOD: Bobby Charlton.

INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: None.
CLUB HONOURS: Fourth Division Championship medal with Lincoln in 1975-76.

FAVOURITE OTHER SPORT: Cricket.

HOBBY: Walking my dog.

FAVOURITE ACTOR AND ACTRESS: Jack Nicholson and Meryl Streep.

FAVOURITE TV SHOWS: The Young Ones and all sports programmes.



FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS PERSON: England cricketer Ian Botham. He's such a marvellous all-rounder.

FAVOURITE MUSICIANS: David Bowie, Big Country and Phil Collins.

BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: Colin Murphy, who gave me confidence in myself when I was with Lincoln, and Birmingham boss Ron Saunders for giving me my chance in the First Division.

AMBITIONS FOR 1984-85: To win something with Birmingham. Everyone at the club believes we can bring a major honour to St Andrews.

LONG TERM AMBITIONS: To play for England and to win the League Championship.

Mick Harford